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U.S. believes in 'land-for-peace'
WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said on Wednesday it continued to support the principle of land-for-peace as a basis for Israeli-Arab negotiations. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was responding to a reporter's comment that proposals put forward by Benjamin Netanyahu, elected prime minister of Israel a week ago, fell short of a comprehensive peace, especially with Syria. "The United States policy is unchanged," Mr. Burns said at a news briefing. "The United States supports a comprehensive peace process in the Middle East. We support land-for-peace." In a prepared statement, Mr. Netanyahu expressed opposition to returning the occupied Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for a peace deal. The Washington Post Wednesday quoted his advisers as saying he favoured limited accords with Syria on other issues. But Mr. Burns said Washington should not jump to conclusions about what the Israeli position was until Mr. Netanyahu had formed a government. "I think it's useful to note that Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu has said quite clearly and publicly that he alone speaks for himself and for his government that is currently being formed," he said.

Jordan Times
An independent Arab political daily published by the Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يونسف فاؤنڊيشن
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية والرأي

Ben Alawi confers with Netanyahu
MANAMA (AP) — The foreign minister of Oman and Israel's prime minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, exchanged views about the Middle East peace process in a telephone conversation Wednesday, the official Oman News Agency reported. It said that Oman's Yusuf Ben Alawi made the call to Mr. Netanyahu to express his country's views. The brief dispatch did not elaborate, but Mr. Alawi's action underlined the growing links between the sultanate and Israel. In another development, the emir of Qatar sold a cabinet meeting Wednesday that Israel must live up to commitments made to the Arabs by previous governments which were involved in the peace process, the Qatar News Agency reported. Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani said that in exchange for peace, Israel must return the Golan Heights to Syria, withdraw from the border strip it occupies in South Lebanon, and reach a settlement on Jerusalem with the Palestinians. Oman and Qatar recently established formal trade ties with Israel, the only countries in the oil-rich Gulf region to have done so.

Aqaba summit says peace process irreversible choice

King, Mubarak and Arafat urge Netanyahu to continue peace talks

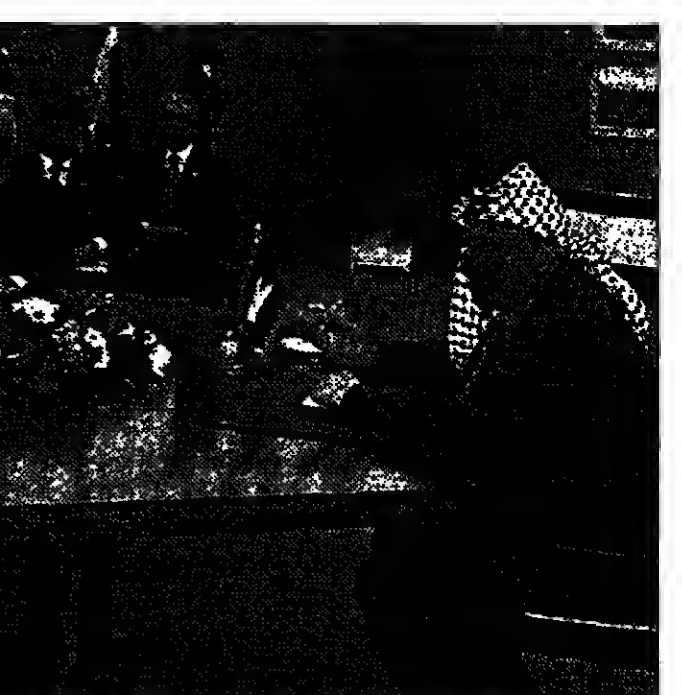
Arab leaders voice support for Palestinians, call for solidarity

King Hussein stresses Jordan will never be alternative for Palestinian leadership

By Salamah Ne'matt with agency dispatches
AQABA — His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday called on the newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to commit himself to implementing agreements reached by the outgoing Labour government and resuming peace negotiations based on the original principles set by the Madrid peace conference so as to move the peace process forward. The tripartite summit, originally called for to extend support for the Palestinian leadership in "final status" negotiations with Israel, declared that the peace process should remain a strategic and irreversible choice for all concerned parties in the region. King Hussein, dismissing Israeli suggestions that Jordan should take part in negotiations with Israel on final status negotiations for the Palestinians and their territories, said the Kingdom would "never be an alternative for the Palestinian leadership under any condition." He added that Jordan "would not deal with any party except the Palestinian National Authority."

King Hussein counselled the Arabs against pessimism, saying "look forward, not backward." "We're convinced, totally convinced, that the peace process is irreversible, that all that has been agreed upon will be implemented and that work towards a comprehensive settlement will be continued," King Hussein declared. Still, the leaders, speaking at a joint news conference after two hours of closed-door talks at the seaside Royal Palace in Aqaba, admitted that Mr. Netanyahu's narrow defeat of peace architect Shimon Peres in last week's elections posed a challenge that requires serious efforts by the Arabs to upgrade coordination to improve their bargaining position. But all three expressed cautious optimism about Mr. Netanyahu's intentions, saying they want to see the composition of his government and policy towards Israel's Arab neighbours before passing judgement. "We cannot yet make a judgement on Israel's direction," Mr. Mubarak said. "We have to wait for the formation of the government, and if it opts to work for peace we will support it, but if it chooses the opposite, we will adopt another position," he warned. "Right wing" leader Netanyahu, who narrowly beat Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres in last week's elections for prime minister in Israel, aroused Arab sus-

picion during his election campaign with his hardline stance on Israel's security needs and the peace process. The three leaders all stressed that they respected the Israeli voters' choice for a prime minister. King Hussein told the press conference that "the Israeli elections are an internal affair and we respect the choice of the Israeli people." Mr. Arafat said the Palestinians also respected the democratic election of Mr. Netanyahu but warned: "We expect them (the Israelis) to respect the accords they already signed." "The first step we are waiting for from the Israeli government is to honour its commitments to release Palestinian prisoners," Mr. Arafat added. "Committing on the elections," Mr. Mubarak said. "We don't want to meddle in Israel's internal affairs." (Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein looks on as Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday during a tripartite summit they held in Aqaba (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

Netanyahu welcomes summit's call for peace, says no to Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed on Wednesday calls by the leaders of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians for a continuation of the Middle East peace process. "Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu believes the commitments made at the summit on advancing a process of peace in the Middle East should be welcomed," his office said in a statement. But in a confrontation with

Yasser Arafat, Mr. Netanyahu said he would not agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state or a division of Jerusalem. Mr. Netanyahu was reacting to a declaration by Mr. Arafat on Wednesday that a state with East Jerusalem as its capital "is the desire of the Palestinian people and nobody can stop it." "Since his election victory on May 29, Mr. Netanyahu had signalled that he would moderate the hardline poli-

U.S. to allow Iraqi oil imports, food sales

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration announced on Wednesday it would permit U.S. firms to import Iraqi oil and sell food and medicine to Baghdad under the terms of a U.N. pact. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last month agreed to strict terms set by the United Nations to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months for much-needed humanitarian supplies. They will be Iraq's first oil sales since its troops invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Pro-Israeli fighter killed, another wounded

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas ambushed a patrol of Israeli-allied militiamen with a roadside bomb in South Lebanon Wednesday, killing one fighter and wounding another, security sources reported. The 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) attack against a patrol of the South Lebanon Army near Arabaaleem in the "security zone" prompted retaliatory fire from Israeli artillery, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing. But the ambush bore the hallmarks of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God. There was no word on casualties from the Israeli shelling, which targeted a cluster of villages controlled by Hizbollah's Shiite Muslim guerrillas.

Hardliner reelected as Iran's parliament speaker

TEHRAN (AP) — A powerful hardliner was reelected speaker of Iran's new parliament Wednesday, confirming a victory for radical leaders who have been battling with reformist moderates over control of the legislature. State-run Tehran Radio said Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, who headed the last parliament throughout its four-year term, was reelected for another one-year term with 146 votes.

David Levy supports unity government

TEL AVIV (AP) — A candidate to become Israel's new foreign minister said Wednesday that Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu should consider forming a coalition with the defeated Labour Party. Such an alliance would help Israel in peace talks with the Arabs and foreign relations, said David Levy, a leading member of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party. Mr. Netanyahu, who narrowly defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres on May 29, has until July 20 to form a coalition. Mr. Levy's comments fuelled speculation that Mr. Netanyahu would welcome Mr. Peres' party into his government. A Likud-Labour coalition could ease fears among Israel's Arab negotiating partners that Mr. Netanyahu, who ran on a hard-line platform, would renege on peace promises made by Mr. Peres. A senior Palestinian negotiator said Mr. Netanyahu must overcome his stated reluctance to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat if he wants to keep the peace talks going. "Netanyahu must deal with us as a partner," Hassan Asfour told the Associated Press. "If this government really wants peace, the meet-

ing between Arafat and Netanyahu should take place." After meeting Tuesday with Mr. Peres, Mr. Netanyahu said the two leaders found they agreed on many issues. But the prime minister-elect has not invited Labour to join his government, despite his campaign pledge that he would do so. Israel TV's Channel 2 said senior officials in Labour and Likud have been in touch by phone to discuss the idea. Mr. Levy, who broke from Likud last year after a bitter fight with Mr. Netanyahu and returned to the fold in the spring, said Wednesday that having Labour as a junior coalition partner would ease relations with the Arab World and the West. "There is no reason to rule it out, it should be examined," Mr. Levy told Israel radio. "In this period, in light of the difficult missions we face, internationally, regionally and everything connected to that, it demands consideration." Mr. Peres' top policy adviser, Yossi Beilin, on Tuesday promoted the idea of a Likud-Labour coalition, saying it was the best way to reach a final peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Syria denies U.S. report of blasts

BEIRUT (APF) — Syria on Wednesday dismissed a U.S. report of violence-linked blasts in the country as "rumours" timed to undermine Arab efforts to counter the hardline positions of Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu. In an interview with the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al-Awsat, Syria's ambassador to Washington, Walid Al-Moallem, also denied German newspaper reports that Damascus was building a toxic gas factory. The U.S. state department said Tuesday that several non-accidental explosions occurred in Syria in the past month and that the incidents led the U.S. embassy in Damascus to urge Americans there to exercise prudence. But Mr. Moallem said: "some parties in the region want to exploit the Turkish-Israeli military agreement and the results of the Israeli elections." "As a result such reports are an attempt to spread rumours about Syria at a time when Syrian President

Iranian-backed plotters shown on Bahrain TV

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The leaders of an alleged plot to overthrow Bahrain's ruling family appeared on television Wednesday, confessing they had received arms and military training in Iran. In near-identical statements that appeared to have been rehearsed, six of the 44 alleged plotters the government claims to have arrested also said they had links to Bahraini opposition groups in exile and to Sheikh Abdul Ameer Al Jamri, a Shiite Muslim preacher. He was imprisoned earlier this year for alleged involvement in the violence that erupted in December 1994 amid a Shiite-led campaign demanding political reforms, including the restoration of an elected parliament dissolved in 1975. The government announced Monday that it had foiled a plot orchestrated by predominantly Shiite Iran to topple the ruling Al Khalifa family, which has dominated this central Gulf island state for more than 200 years. Authorities claim the 44 conspirators were arrested during the 18-month wave of unrest, but has not explained why the government disclosed the coup plot only this week. In the recorded confessions, several said they had received subversive training as religious students in the Iranian holy city of Qom, the leading centre of Shiite scholarship in the Muslim World. One man, who identified himself as Fakhri Abdulla Rashid Khalil, said he had been a teacher at the Iranian school in Bahrain and was recruited by Iranian diplomats. He was imprisoned earlier this year for alleged involvement in the violence that erupted in December 1994 amid a Shiite-led campaign demanding political reforms, including the restoration of an elected parliament dissolved in 1975. The government announced Monday that it had foiled a plot orchestrated by predominantly Shiite Iran to topple the ruling Al Khalifa family, which has dominated this central Gulf island state for more than 200 years. Authorities claim the 44 conspirators were arrested

Interfaith meeting on education ends with a call for continued dialogue

By Ghaila Alul Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Muslims and Christians debating the educational systems in Islam and Christianity wrapped up their three-day consultation Wednesday on "The Educational System in Islam and Christianity," during which the participants presented papers on the philosophy of education in Islam and Christianity, as well as problems of education in modern society. The participants stressed the importance of Muslim-Christian dialogue within the framework of pluralism. They also emphasised that countries with Muslim or Christian minorities should focus on the content of education in their school curricula. They said the values of education in Islam and Christianity are similar to their faith in God. Therefore, countries should seek to eliminate material that promote hatred in the educational curricula. Calling on the societies to show concern with other countries' religions, the participants stressed that religion should be part of the basic social and humanitarian studies which aim to promote better understanding with other societies. They also praised His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's book on "Christianity in the Arab World" and its objective analysis of the situation of Christianity in the Arab countries. They recommended that the Prince's book be a prelude for the study of Christianity and comparative religions. The participants referred to the opening address of the Metropolitan Damaskinos of the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and said Christians and Muslims should respect each other's opinion and call for peace, unity, justice and continued dialogue. At the end of the meeting, the participants came up with a number of suggestions to improve the benefit of such encounters through maintaining continued dialogue between Muslim and Christian universities, focusing on issues of common interest and values, as well as establishing media programmes to consolidate understanding and knowledge of each other. In his closing address, Metropolitan Damaskinos of Switzerland said the Muslim-Christian dialogue was a "consistent dialogue of people of faith on the basis of the principles of both religions, and issues which are of interest or concern to our people in view of the rapid changes in the world's political, spiritual and social structures." He also thanked Prince Hassan for his support of the dialogue and his "insistence on the idea of its necessity." "We thank him for his vision which maintains the bridge of our common hope in us, and gives us all the strength to carry out our duty with responsibility towards ourselves and also towards other people," he said. (Continued on page 7)

Settlers seize Turkish bath in Hebron

HEBRON (Reuters) — Jewish settlers on Wednesday seized an Arab-owned Turkish bath in Hebron to enlarge their West Bank enclave, a week after Israelis elected a right-wing leader as prime minister, Palestinians said. A spokesman for the 400 Jewish settlers in Hebron, a flashpoint of Arab-Jewish violence, said the property was an old home that belonged to Jews who lived in Hebron before their massacre by Arabs in 1929. Palestinians said Israeli soldiers were guarding about 10 Jewish settlers who supervised workers removing stones from the one-room bath in the old city. They said the settlers were effectively destroying the structure and using the stones to build a wall that would annex the bath to a nearby Jewish enclave. "It hasn't been a week since (Benjamin) Netanyahu's election victory and the settlers are already trying to expand their settlements," said Salah Al Natshe, director of the Waqf, or Islamic trust, in Hebron. Under an agreement with the PLO, Israel was to have pulled out its troops from parts of Hebron before the Israeli elections and hand over control to the PLO. But Prime Minister Shimon Peres decided after a series of Islamic militant suicide attacks to postpone the redeployment until after the elections. Netanyahu, who ran on a platform opposing the Israeli-PLO land for peace self-rule deal, has said that his new government will study the agreement on army redeployment and decide later. Mr. Natshe said the 30 square metre Turkish bath was owned by the Waqf, which was planning to turn it into a small museum for the city.

Palestinians wary of new right-wing government in Israel, see tougher life

By Said Ghazali
The Associated Press

HEBRON (AP) — Jamil Abu Aisheh, a carpenter whose home overlooks a tiny trailer park for Jewish settlers in this Palestinian town, fears that life will get harder now that Benjamin Netanyahu has been elected Israel's leader.

Three days after the May 29 election, he said, children of Jewish settlers in the town pelted his home, breaking some glass.

Mr. Abu Aisheh believes such attacks will only become more frequent.

"The settlers feel that the government is in their hands right now," says Mr. Abu Aisheh, 28.

Mr. Netanyahu, who as opposition leader opposed the past years' Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace talks, has toned down some of his tough statements since winning the election — an effort to calm concerns among Israelis, Arabs and around the world.

But his coalition will likely rest on rightist and religious parties which support the 140,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. And Mr. Netanyahu is opposed to the Palestinians' demand to set up a state in the areas, which are now partly autonomous.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe told the Associated Press Tuesday that the future of Hebron "is the first test for Netanyahu" in proving that he sincerely desires to continue the peace-making.

The tense town, where 450 settlers live in several enclaves alongside 94,000 Palestinians, is the last one in the West Bank under Israeli occupation. In response to a series of suicide bombings in Israel by militants three months ago, outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres delayed a planned March pullout from Hebron and sealed the West Bank and Gaza from Israel, keeping tens of thousands from their jobs.

Mr. Peres promised to carry out the Hebron pullout after the election, but this week decided to leave the matter to Mr. Netanyahu, who has 45 days to put together a majority coalition in the Knesset.

As a candidate, Mr. Netanyahu said troops should remain in Hebron for three years. But when he was asked about the issue Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu said he wanted to study the matter further before making a decision.

On Monday, Moshe Katsav, a senior-Likud lawmaker, said the new government would "have no interest in controlling the Arab part of Hebron."

Mr. Natshe, who sat in his office underneath a map showing the planned Israeli withdrawal from 80 per cent of the city, said that beyond the talk, there have been no concrete signs that the new government would be serious about peace-making.

Particularly galling, he said, was the fact that Mr. Netanyahu's conciliatory but vague victory speech Sunday ignored any direct reference to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat while pledging continued peace talks with Arabs, "including the Palestinians."

Among ordinary people in Hebron, the prospect of a prolonged Israeli occupation was demoralising.

"I hoped the army would withdraw within a month," said shopkeeper Zuhair Iskafi, now, he said, "perhaps the army will pull back in one or two years."

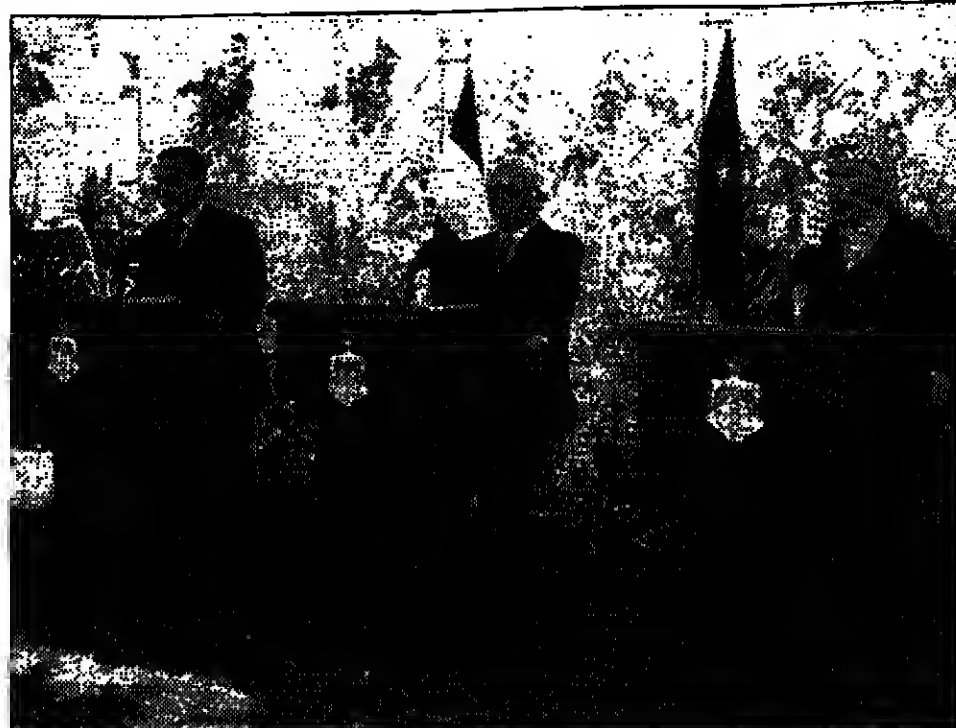
Mr. Iskafi managed a supermarket in the Israeli city of Beersheba about 50 kilometres south. But he is kept out of Israel by the closure and three weeks ago opened a mini-market here.

Mr. Iskafi disagreed with some Palestinians who see little difference between peace architect Peres and right-wing Israelis like Netanyahu.

"It is really bad," he said of the election result.

Hairdresser Hanna Abu Haikel, 37, said that a nationalist, religious Israeli government that blocks peace talks might enable the Palestinians to win sympathy for their aspirations.

"Maybe the world will be more understanding," she said, passing an army roadblock near her house.



NEWS CONFERENCE: King Hussein (centre) gestures as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (right) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak look on during a news conference Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Hamas founder sees some advantages in rightist triumph in Israeli elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A militant leader said that in some ways he preferred Benjamin Netanyahu to Shimon Peres because he felt the right-wing leader more accurately reflected the views of the majority in Israel.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the jailed spiritual leader of the militant group Hamas, made the remarks in a meeting in prison with Rabbi Menachem Fruman, a moderate among Jewish West Bank settlers.

"He said that he believed that a right-wing government expressed the real feeling of the Jewish people more than the left, so he preferred to work with the right," Rabbi Fruman told the AP Tuesday. "They (Hamas) suspect that the left-wing are lying... And are not at all upset by the upheaval."

Rabbi Fruman said that he has been meeting with Sheikh Yassin and several other Hamas leaders for years in an effort to find common ground that could lead to a peaceful end to violent attacks against Israelis.

The quadriplegic Yassin, who is also blind, was co-convicted in 1991 of manslaughter of ordering the deaths of four Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

The 61-year-old is serving a life sentence. Hamas has carried out a series of suicide bombings in Israel in hopes of wrecking the peace agreements negotiated by Mr. Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Officials of Peres' Labour Party have long claimed the attacks were actually aimed at undermining them

and bringing Mr. Netanyahu's Likud to power in order to stop the peace process, which involved compromises that hardliners opposed.

Mr. Netanyahu has been a harsh critic of the accords, but he now promises to continue the peace talks.

Rabbi Fruman said that the deeply Islamic movement "believes that peace must be built on a foundation of religion and he agreed that the new Likud government had a more religious outlook."

Mr. Netanyahu received strong support from the ultra-orthodox constituency in Israel in the direct vote for prime minister, and is expected to form a coalition government with the smaller religious parties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan prince meets Ben Ali

TUNIS (AFP) — Prince Takamado, a cousin of Japan's Emperor Akihito, had talks here Tuesday with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, an official said. The prince expressed the hope that the president would visit Japan. During his five-day visit, the first to Tunisia by a member of the Japanese imperial family, the prince and his wife have seen the ruins of ancient Carthage, the souks of Tunis and the Zitouna mosque. On Monday he dined with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and presided over musical instruments to the Tunis symphony orchestra. The Japanese royal couple also visited the national family and population agency and a job training centre, both of which receive aid from Tokyo.

Chirac contacts Arafat

PARIS (R) — French President Jacques Chirac telephoned Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Tuesday and assured him of support in his peace efforts, Mr. Chirac's office said. A spokesman said Mr. Chirac also called defeated Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and told him "he was convinced that he (Peres) would continue to play a significant role in his country." Mr. Chirac had a brief conversation with Mr. Arafat "to assure him of our support in the peace process, which we have no doubt will continue," the spokesman said. France on Monday applauded Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu for pledging in his victory speech to continue the Middle East peace process and for making early contact with Arab leaders.

15 arrested in Beirut drugs bust

BEIRUT (AFP) — Security forces arrested 15 Lebanese wanted for the trafficking or consumption of drugs in early morning raids Tuesday during which gunfire was exchanged, police said. A police statement said there were no casualties in the raids in Assim in Beirut's southern suburbs during which six kilograms of heroin was seized. The police operation was backed by Syrian troops and Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon, it said. Lebanese authorities backed by Syrian troops have largely managed to wipe out the cannabis and poppy crops which flourished during the country's 1975-1990 civil war, but regularly announce the arrest of traffickers and the closure of laboratories where cocaine and heroin are treated before local consumption or export to Europe and the United States.

Mubarak, British minister hold talks

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Tuesday with British Foreign Office Minister Jeremy Hanley to discuss the Arab-Israeli peace process after the right-wing Likud victory in Israel. The talks focused on "developments in the peace process following the victory" of Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in Israeli elections last week, the state news agency MENA said. Mr. Hanley met later in the day with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa for talks on the peace process and bilateral relations, the agency said. Mr. Hanley, who arrived in Egypt earlier Tuesday for a two-day visit, was to meet Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid the following day. He is on a five-day regional tour which has already taken him to Lebanon and Syria and which will include Jordan and Morocco.

Court drops charges against legislator

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Jerusalem magistrate dropped charges of sedition against a right-wing activist Tuesday after he was elected a member of parliament, Israel Radio said. Rabbi Benny Elon, a leader of the right-wing Zu Artzeinu movement, was charged with organising illegal mass protests last year against government plans to turn over West Bank land to the Palestinians. Protesters burned tires and blocked traffic for hours across the country. Elon, who won a Knesset seat in the May 29 election and therefore has parliamentary immunity, was charged along with two other group leaders, Moshe Feiglin and Shmuel Sackett. The charges against Mr. Sackett and Mr. Feiglin remain.

Ghali postpones Cyprus meeting

ISTANBUL (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has postponed a meeting with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş set for Wednesday due to an illness, a U.N. spokesman said. The pair had been due to meet in Istanbul, where Dr. Ghali is attending the U.N. Habitat II conference on urban development, for talks on the Cyprus issue. "He has rescheduled the meeting for tomorrow at 11.00."

Railway may live up to 'new Silk Road' billing

By Douglas Busvine
Reuters

SARAKHS, on the Iran-Turkmenistan border — A New "Silk Road," a golden road, a bridgehead — even a lifeline.

Leaders at the opening of a railway between Iran and Turkmenistan were out short of superlatives or well-worn metaphors to describe the link between Iran's Gulf ports and the resource-rich hinterland of Central Asia.

"This is a landmark in the region's development which will bring a brighter future for its nations," Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told 12 presidents at the May opening.

He was speaking in a vast eight-peaked pavilion thrown up over foundations laid for a five-star hotel and office complex at the heart of a planned 5,000-hectare free economic zone.

The zone's managers want traders and manufac-

turers to come to the latter-day caravan to tap the market of former Soviet republics. They put on a trade fair of Iranian-built Peugeot cars and Mercedes buses, rugs, machinery and consumer goods.

And, by offering visa-free stays, they hope to draw in some of the shoppers who now descend on Turkey and Dubai before returning to their homes in what was the Soviet Union in overloaded charter jets.

"This region will give you all a free trade zone requires," Director Agha Yazdy Farzin said. "You get cheap energy, water is no problem, and last but not least there is the railway."

Frontiers with Soviet Central Asia were sealed after British spy F.M. Bailey scrambled over the border here in the 1920s amid a hail of bullets from Red Army troops after a failed bid to turn the region against communism. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, trade

between the newly independent countries and their southern neighbours has slowly been picking up.

Iran has been isolated by the West since the 1979 revolution and the United States imposed an economic embargo last year after accusing it of sponsoring terrorism.

There have been steps towards regional cooperation, with the expansion in 1992 of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) — founded by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan — to the former Soviet Central Asian states, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan.

But the limits of ECO were clearly shown up at a summit in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat after the railway inauguration.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov threatened to walk out after Mr. Rafsanjani lashed out at the United States and Israel.

"We do not want this organisation turned into a political-military structure," he said.

Iran hopes the railway will boost regional integration. The new route will be shorter, faster and cheaper than existing rail links to the Black Sea, Baltic or Far East.

"With the opening of the railway between Turkmenistan and Sarakhs, landlocked Central Asia is effectively linked with the international waters of the south," promised a slick video accompanied by state-of-the-art computer graphics.

Khudaygul Khalykov, head of Turkmenistan's state railways, told Reuters that the volume of goods transit would hit one million tonnes in the first year, rising to three million by 1998.

Official figures show the 300-kilometre link from Mashhad in Iran to the Turkmen railway in Turkmenistan should eventually carry eight million tonnes of freight and one million passengers a year.

Mr. Khalykov said facilities were already in place

on the Turkmen side to shift 110 rail wagons a day from narrow-gauge Iranian rails to wider ex-Soviet ones. Container-handling cranes are ready to work on the Iranian side.

The distance from the Uzbek capital Tashkent by rail to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas is 3,900 kilometres — shorter than the 8,700 kilometres across Russia to Vladivostok or 6,200 kilometres to Shanghai.

Although distances to the Baltic and the Black Sea are similar, the warm waters of the Gulf are far closer to the booming markets of Asia.

"We are looking at it as an opportunity for a landlocked country like Kazakhstan," said Adil Vadoliwala, acting general director of Ispat Karmet, the company which bought Kazakhstan's giant Karaganda Steel Works last year.

"At the moment most of our sales are to the Commonwealth of Independent

States and China. But this opens up south and Southeast Asia."

Ispat Karmet expects to produce more than 2.6 million tonnes of steel this year, rising eventually to six million tonnes. It says the Iranian route would save 10 per cent on freight and a week on transit times.

Mark Sadler, of British cotton trader A. Meredith Jones, said his Uzbek trading partners were looking at the railway closely.

"We already take delivery of Uzbek cotton in Bandar Abbas by truck. It works very well and the port facilities are good," he said.

But optimism will be tinged with caution until all teething troubles and bureaucratic hurdles are cleared.

"Everyone is waiting for the first train to move," Mr. Vadoliwala said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Aladdin
15:30 NBA
16:30 Doc Pirates
17:00 News Flash
17:40 Children's Programme — Les Polards
17:50 Varieties — Les Monde Est A Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Archimede
19:35 Carol and Company
20:00 Tarzane
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature film: "Between Love and Honour"
23:30 My New Wives

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Duha
12:34 Dhuhr
16:14 Asr
19:45 Maghrib
21:17 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Saidhah, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholic Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative hot weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with temperatures becoming above average and winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mia/Max. temp. 16/32
Amman 22 / 38
Aqaba 22 / 35
Jordan Valley 22 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30 Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 798863
Dr. Adil Shukri 898863
Dr. Sa'id Tayfiq 782285
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
Firm pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Aqaba pharmacy 637025
Nairokh pharmacy 626472
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'd 989000
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 521111, 657777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 530221
Hospi Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn 6424412

Jabal Amman Maternity

642362
Mallaha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 699131
University Hospital 849845
Al-Musheer Hospital 667227/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajira 7710173
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Al-Marka 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital 642362
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikam Maden Hospital (09)909990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia Int.

International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Moscow (RJ)
12:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
13:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto
13:15 Rome (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
13:20 London (RJ)
13:25 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
13:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:50 Larnaca (RJ)
21:20 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:00 Athens (OA)
07:00 Beirut, London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:30 Athens (AH)
21:25 Cairo (MS)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

16:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport)

20:30 Aqaba (from OALA) (RW)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apricot 950/600
Apple 700/500
Banana (Mulkammar) 520/320
Banana (imported) 780/520
Cabbage 80/50
Carrot 170/100
Cauliflower 200/140
Cucumber (large) 120/80
Cucumber (small) 180/120
Eggplant 280/180
Garlic 550/400
Garlic (green) 270/150
Lemon 630/450
Marrow (large) 170/120
Mulkahiah 170/100
Onion (dry) 110/70
Orange 400/300
Peas 680/450
Pepper (hot) 340/240
Pepper (sweet) 450/300
Potato 250/170
String Bean 550/400
Tomato 160/100
Water melon 130/80



His Royal Highness Prince Raad distributes certificates to graduates at the Jordanian College of Occupational Therapy (Petra photo)

Prince Raad attends graduation at College of Occupational Therapy

College to start offering B.A. degrees

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid on Wednesday attended the graduation ceremony of the fourth batch of the Jordanian College of Occupational Therapy.

Her Royal Highness Princess Majda Raad, who is the chairperson of the college's board of directors, announced that the college will freeze admittance of students for one year until its premises are moved from Al Hussein Medical Centre to the University of Jordan.

She said that after the move, the college will start offering students a bachelor's degree instead of the

current three-year diploma.

The Princess stressed the important role of the college in providing Jordan's medical sector with its needs of specialised personnel and added that graduates from college should be given enough care and support and be given a chance to shoulder their responsibilities.

Director of the Royal Medical Services Major-General Yousef Qusous delivered an address in which he outlined the establishment and development of the college.

According to Maj.-Gen. Qusous, the college was established in 1989 as a joint project between the Armed Forces' Royal Med-

ical Services and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Describing the college as one of Jordan's great achievements, GUVS President Abdullah Khatib said the college was established during the last decade which was dedicated for the handicapped.

Dean of the college Jamal Smadi said the college has always been seeking to offer the best educational facilities to its students, who obtain their diplomas after receiving training at GUVS's and the Ministry of Health's centres.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Raad distributed diplomas to the graduates.

Jordan, Qatar to set up joint parliamentary committee to help in promoting ties

DOHA (Petra) — Jordan and Qatar on Wednesday decided to set up a joint parliamentary committee to help in promoting ties between the Kingdom's Lower House of Parliament and Qatar's Shura Council.

The decision was taken in Doha at a meeting between Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour and Speaker of the Shura Council Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifi.

At a press briefing after the meeting, attended by parliamentarians from the two sides, Mr. Srour said the committee will act as a link between the two countries' parliaments and that it mainly aims to bolster parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Qatar in particular, and cooperation among all Arab parliaments in general.

It will also give the two parliaments the chance to exchange views and exper-

tise and to serve the two countries' interests and joint Arab action, Mr. Srour said, adding that he will soon announce the names of the committee members on the Jordanian side.

Mr. Srour described the Jordanian-Qatari ties as exemplary and stressed the Kingdom's keenness to boost them.

He also underlined the importance of meetings between Arab parliamentarians at the bilateral level or at the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) level, and called for increasing these meetings to serve the higher interests of the Arab Nation.

The House speaker also praised Qatar's policies aimed at healing Arab rifts, saying the Gulf Emirate's stands on the causes of the Arab Nation are a source of pride for all Arabs.

Expressing parliament's readiness to extend any



Saad Hayel Srour

possible assistance to the Qatari Shura Council, Mr. Srour outlined at the meeting Jordan's democratisation experience and the role of Parliament in advancing it and participating in the decision-making process.

Mr. Srour reiterated an invitation to Mr. Khalifi to visit Jordan at the head of a parliamentary delegation.

Mr. Khalifi paid tribute to Jordan's role at the Arab arena and commended His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to achieve Arab conciliation and solidarity.

Also Wednesday, Mr. Srour met with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani and reviewed with him means of enhancing bilateral relations.

They discussed the latest developments on the Arab and international arenas and stressed the need to expand the scope of Arab meetings to coordinate Arab stands on various issues.

Mr. Srour and Sheikh Hamad stressed the need for the Arab countries to overcome their differences and to place the interests of the Arab Nation above any other consideration.

They also called on Arab countries to discuss their problems in a frank manner

and not to allow any foreign power to undermine the security of any Arab country.

Underlining the significant role the Jordanian-Qatari Joint Committee plays in boosting ties, Sheikh Hamad voiced his country's full support for the committee, which will convene in Amman next month.

On Thursday, Mr. Srour will hold a press conference at the conclusion of his three-day official visit to the emirate to outline the outcome of his visit and talks with Qatari officials.

Mr. Srour, accompanied on the visit by deputies Ibrahim Kilani, Ali Shatti and Mohammad Hunaiti, will also meet with the Jordanian community in Qatar at the residence of the Jordanian ambassador to get familiarised with their conditions.

Experts stress need for better performance in electricity distribution

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab and European engineers and experts exchanged information and know-how and stressed the need for improving performance in electricity distribution during a four-day international symposium that ends here today.

Over 90 scientific papers covering all aspects of electricity distribution were presented in the symposium which started Monday and was organised by the Arab Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electricity (AUPTDE) and the International Conference on Electricity Distribution (CIRED).

"A particular focus was put on the need for containing losses," CIRED President and chairman of the symposium Leslie de Zilwa told the Jordan Times.

While in European countries between five and seven per cent of electricity generated is wasted in the distribution process, the average percentage of losses in developing countries reaches up to 20 per cent.

"Jordan, with its average of 12 per cent in losses, decreasing in urban and

developed areas, to go down to 8.6 per cent in the Amman district, is not in such a bad situation," assistant technical manager at Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) and member of the joint technical committee at the symposium Fathi Khatib pointed out.

"Losses depend on the system used and on the design parameters, but, considering Jordan's geological parameters and the extension of desert areas, the Kingdom's electricity losses are not particularly high," Mr. Khatib said.

Ensuring continuity in supply, and avoiding interruptions in the distribution network through efficient maintenance and good construction designs, were also among the main themes discussed during the symposium.

According to Secretary General of AUPTDE Mohammed Azzam, Jordan's standards in continuity of supplies are also satisfying. Mr. Azzam, who is also chief engineer for technical and corporate planning at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), told the Jordan Times that with six hours per year of interruption in electricity distribution, Jordan's standards

could be considered in the range of Western countries.

The symposium brought together 210 experts from 24 countries all over Europe and the Arab World and was co-sponsored by the JEA, the JEPCO and the Irbid District Electricity Authority.

The four working sessions of the symposium dealt with planning of electricity distribution networks and standardisation, design and construction, with particular focus on methodologies for losses optimisation, system control and maintenance, customer relations.

An exhibition presenting the latest technologies in electricity distribution and the latest achievements of European and Arab manufacturers was associated with the symposium throughout the four days of the working sessions.

"The symposium was the result of a fruitful two-year scientific cooperation between AUPTDE and CIRED, and was meant from the beginning to be a specialised conference, focused on the specific problems and needs of the Middle Eastern region," Mr. De Zilwa said.

"The joint technical committee focused on specific problems affecting this

region, such as pollution, the occurrences of failures to ground due to sand storms and the increasing need for automation," Mr. Khatib said.

"One of the greatest achievements of this symposium was that electricity producers, manufacturers and utilisers had the possibility to gather and discuss their different priorities and needs, so that designers, constructors and suppliers can meet the needs of local distributors," member of the joint technical committee at the symposium Giuliano Monizza pointed out.

Mr. De Zilwa pointed to the similarities in the privatisation processes which electricity authorities and agencies in some European and Arab countries are undergoing.

"The general trend shows that more and more governments are selling their electricity utilities to the public," he said.

Nonetheless, European and Arab national electricity agencies on their way to start a privatisation process will hit markets with very different demands and will need different strategies of demand management.

While Europe is registering an annual increase in electricity demand of 1.5

per cent, Jordan's national demand, due to the ongoing industrialisation, is growing at a rate of 7.5 per cent per year.

"JEPCO is facing figures showing a tremendous rapidity in demand growth, which has never been faced in Europe," Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Khatib, in the last 20 years JEPCO's consumers increased from 95,000 to half a million, and the Kingdom's electricity distribution network expanded to serve from 40 per cent of the population in 1975, to 99 per cent of the Kingdom's total population in 1995.

According to Mr. De Zilwa, Jordan's electricity market will reach saturation in 20 years time.

"Improving performance is an essential part of any demand managing strategy," Mr. Khatib said, adding that in 1975 JEPCO registered technical losses in electricity distribution that amounted to 16 per cent.

"At the end of the day, ability to contain losses will positively reflect on the consumers' bills."

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. envoy opens clinic

AMMAN (Petra) — British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe on Wednesday opened a dentistry clinic at Al Mallah Society in Amman. The clinic, provided with modern equipment donated by the British government, will be serving residents of the surrounding areas in Wadi Al Nasser. The president and members of the society's administrative committee thanked the ambassador for his country's support of the society. Clinic is fully equipped.

Exports witnessed 25% growth in 1995

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Mohammad Halaqah said Wednesday that in 1995, Jordanian exports increased by 25 per cent compared with 1994. He said Jordan has been exporting products to over 100 countries which are making more demands for these exports due to their competitive prices and good quality, adding that 1995 exports totalled \$1.419 billion. Mr. Halaqah said JEDCO was searching for new markets for Jordanian exports, among which is the West Bank market which is seen as a promising market. He noted that Israel's annual exports to the West Bank are estimated at \$2.5 billion.

Public nurses strike demanding pay raise

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About 2,200 government nurses around the Kingdom Wednesday stopped work for two hours in all government medical institutions demanding a pay raise despite promises from the government to study their demands.

The nurses vowed to continue their strike after receiving no reaction from the government, according to Khalid Rawabah, vice president of the Jordanian Nursing Association (JNA).

"A committee, that formed by the JNA, decided Wednesday evening to extend the strike, since the government ignored our strike and demands," Mr. Rawabah told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Rawabah, the strike was nation-wide, and was held in all government institutions during regular working hours, between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and nurses offered medical services only to emergency cases and surgeries.

The nurses, who are planning to strike for four hours next Sunday, are demanding a 90 per cent raise, instead of the present 50 per

cent raise, in addition to their inclusion in an incentive allowance system.

On Monday, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti met with the JNA committee and informed the delegation of his commitment to their demands and promised to restructure the health sector and to reconsider the regulations related to the incentives and promotions.

But this, according to JNA members, was not enough because they said they wanted a genuine commitment from the government.

"We will not halt our planned strikes, until we receive a written commitment from the prime minister noting our demands will be met soon," Mr. Rawabah insisted.

If the government does not respond to their demands, nurses will strike all day June 12. They will then stop working until a solution is reached by the government and the JNA.

A similar strike, staged by government physicians demanding equal rights as their private sector counterparts, drew instant attention from Mr. Kabarti's government, who intervened the same evening promising to study their demands.

Controversy over demolition of deputy's 'property' dies out after making tabloid headlines

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A political controversy that arose over the demolition last week of a house and a water well that independent Islamist deputy Abdul Majid Al Aqtash had built on a state owned piece of land seems to have died down after it turned into a hot political issue debated on the pages of weekly tabloids due to the political nature that deputy Aqtash tried to bestow upon the case.

The controversy started when, after weeks of legal deliberations, a Madaba court issued the decision to demolish all the property that deputy Al Aqtash had built on a two-dunum piece of land adjacent to his farm near Madaba.

On May 28, Madaba governor sent government bulldozers to carry out a court order. But just as the bulldozers roared through the farm, the deputy was crying political persecution. Even though the court case was launched by the deputy's neighbour who was compet-

ing with him over the utilisation of the land, Mr. Aqtash tried to assume the posture of a political victim and weekly tabloid spotted a story that had the potential of making sensational headlines.

Mr. Aqtash charged that the government took the action against him as punishment for the fierce attack he made against Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti and his ministerial team in the speech he made during the House confidence session in early March.

The deputy, who is known for his fiery — yet funny — speeches in Parliament, withheld confidence from the cabinet. The destruction of the property which he built on a land he does not own was the government's way to take revenge against him, he claimed.

But Madaba governor, who carried out the court order to abolish Mr. Aqtash's properties on the state owned land, unequivocally rejected the deputy's accusations.

The decision to remove Mr. Aqtash's investment on the state land was issued by

a court of law on legal and not political grounds, the governor insisted.

Mr. Aqtash had been using the land for 45 years, a family member told the Jordan Times. But the neighbour wanted a piece of the cake and when he couldn't, he sued Mr. Aqtash. Both came out losers.

Mr. Aqtash, according to his family member, incurred about JD 3,300 in damages. His neighbour's loss was higher.

According to the same source, the government bulldozers also destroyed property that the neighbour had built on the state-owned land. His losses are estimated at JD 10,000.

Mr. Aqtash started giving the case a political dimension only after he failed to get a government permission to continue using the land before the court order was issued.

But that did not help him much and he and his family have accepted their loss.

"As far as we are concerned, the case is closed and what has been done is done," Mr. Aqtash's family member said.

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Ra'ed Bin Zeid
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Will be held at the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman between the 6th - 18th of June.

Eleven worldwide well - recognized jazz groups will be performing in open air, different kinds of spectacular jazz music ranging from Classical through Oriental to Latin America Fusion jazz.

Special seating for tickets sold at:
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Free entrance for the opening tonight at 9:30 pm.
Invitations will be available at the Delegation Of The European Commission (Tel. 668191/2), and at Freddy for Music (Tel. 692696), and at Al-QASR Hotel (Tel. 689671).



Freddy For Music
Tel 701888 - 682696

S. Korean parliament breaks up in opening day chaos

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's new parliament broke up in chaos on its opening day Wednesday as opposition members attacked the ruling party for poaching deputies to give it control of the chamber.

The opposition had threatened a boycott in protest at the New Korea Party's success in regaining its overall majority in the National Assembly after a general election setback.

The New Korea Party, headed by President Kim Young-Sam, won 139 seats in the 299-seat assembly in April, but now has 151 seats after swelling its ranks, mainly with independents.

In the end, members of the National Congress for New Politics and United Liberal Democrats turned up for the opening session.

But the acting speaker, a member of the United Liberal Democrats, refused to go ahead with a vote for speaker, saying the dispute over the New Korea Party's majority must first be resolved.

Amid shouting and angry exchanges between ruling and opposition members, Kim Hui-Nam declared parliament adjourned until June 12.

Opposition members erupted into

cheers after Mr. Kim slammed down his gavel to signal the end of business. Mr. Kim, 76, was selected as acting speaker since he is the oldest member of the house.

"A clash is expected if the ruling and opposition parties do not reach an agreement," he warned.

An inauguration ceremony scheduled for Wednesday afternoon was cancelled.

Publicly, the opposition maintains that by cobbling together a working majority the New Korea Party has frustrated the will of the electorate.

But opposition deputies say privately they are angry because they had hoped to use the ruling party's weakness in the new parliament to open inquiries into President Kim's finances.

In particular, the opposition is keen to get details of Mr. Kim's funding for his 1992 presidential bid. It maintains Mr. Kim dipped into a huge slush fund amassed by his disgraced predecessor, Rob Tae-Woo.

President Kim has denied taking a single cent of illegal money, but has given only sketchy details of where his

campaign financing came from.

Park Sang-Chun, floor leader of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics, warned the ruling party against steamrolling through its candidate for speaker.

"We will not acknowledge the new speaker and protest his authority for the next two years," he said. A speaker's term lasts for two years, while parliament is elected for four years.

President Kim has nominated Kim Soo-Han, a long-time associate, as speaker.

The opposition maintains that nine independents and three members of the Democratic Party were bullied into joining the ruling camp. It has demanded the New Korea Party expel the three Democratic Party newcomers and apologise.

The opposition is also calling for a review of election laws. It alleges April's vote was riddled with irregularities.

The National Congress has 79 seats in the new parliament, the United Liberal Democrats 49, the Democratic Party 12 and independents eight.

U.S. Senate Democrats block Dole-backed missile defence

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate majority leader Bob Dole failed to overcome Democratic opposition in the Senate Tuesday to a bill approving a missile defence system that he has made part of his presidential campaign platform.

Sen. Dole, who leaves the Senate next Tuesday to pursue full-time his challenge to President Bill Clinton, never expected to win the vote. Like other measures he is offering this week that have no chance of success, he presented the missile defence plan to demonstrate his sharp policy differences with the president.

Mr. Clinton has pledged to veto the missile defence bill, a successor to the far larger "Star Wars" system backed by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, if it passes. The administration says Sen. Dole's bill would violate the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty and cost too much.

The Senate voted along party lines, 53-46, against ending a filibuster, as Republicans fell short of the 60 votes needed to end debate. Democrats condemned the proposal as a budget-buster that would be obsolete before it is built. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated the missile system would cost from \$30 billion to \$60 billion.

Nonetheless, Sen. Dole's point was made. After the vote he was ready to move on to his other issues of the day — a balanced budget amendment to the constitution and a bill that would speed expansion of the NATO alliance. Both are opposed by Mr. Clinton and neither is expected to pass.

Although he lost the Missile Defence Bill in the Senate to minority Democrats, Sen. Dole won credit in the eyes of such conser-

vative backers as the Heritage Foundation. He also had the backing of every Republican senator.

"The threat today is greater than it was during the cold war," argued Sen. James Inhofe, an Oklahoma Republican. "During the cold war we had two superpowers, so we had agreements to downgrade nuclear capability ... Today we are talking about 25 to 30 nations" that could present a danger.

The Dole plan requires deployment by 2003 of a system that could protect the 50 states from attacks by a small number of missiles. The ABM treaty with the former Soviet Union permits only one U.S. anti-missile site and opponents say defending all 50 states would require additional sites. Russia assumed the Soviet Union's treaty obligations.

In addition, the system requires costly and sophisticated new technology in the future. It is those extras — which could include space-based weapons — that CBO estimated would drive the price up to \$30 billion to \$60 billion and the administration says would also violate the ABM treaty.

Many Democrats drew a straight line between Sen. Dole's support of a balanced budget amendment and his support of the costly missile system. "Surely the American people who watch and listen must think we have the attention span of house flies," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat.

"If you're going to balance the budget as the budget should be balanced ... There is not room for a very large tax cut and there is not room for \$60 billion for additional 'Star Wars' programmes."

OAS questions legality of U.S. anti-Cuba sanctions law

PANAMA CITY (AFP) — The Organisation of American States, in an unprecedented blow against Washington, ordered Tuesday an investigation of the legality of a new U.S. law aimed at stifling foreign investment in Cuba.

The United States, casting the lone opposing vote, lashed out at the overwhelming approval of a resolution authorising an OAS legal panel to rule whether the Helms-Burton law violates international law, calling it "diplomatic cowardice" in the face of Communist Cuba.

The OAS resolution criticised the U.S. law as a "unilateral" action with "extraterritorial effects" on third countries.

It was approved without debate by 23 members of the 34-state OAS, convened here Monday for its 26th annual General Assembly.

Nine delegations that had supported the resolution were absent for the vote. Dominica, which did not participate in Tuesday's session, had not formally supported the Washington-based OAS' first protest of a U.S. law.

The initiative was sponsored by Canada and the 14-nation Rio Group. Bolivian Foreign Minister Ricardo Anaribar Quiroga presented the resolution to the OAS General Assembly Tuesday.

The document states that the organisation is "concerned about the enactment and application by member states of laws whose territorial effects infringe on the sovereignty of other states, as well as the freedom of trade and investment."

Under the U.S. Helms-Burton Law enacted in March, U.S. nationals can sue foreign firms for compensation from the use of their former property, nationalised and resold by Cuban President Fidel Castro's government.

In addition, executives of firms that do business with Cuba, and their relatives, could be barred from entering the United States.

The U.S. ambassador to the OAS, Harriet Babbitt, addressing the assembly after the vote, angrily denounced the action taken by Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. "What kind of diplomatic cowardice is

this?"

"Are certain countries embarrassed that they can muster the fortitude to question a domestic law but lack the moral and political courage to denounce a totalitarian dictatorship?" she asked a bushed room.

Cuba has not been represented at OAS sessions since it was suspended in 1962 for not holding what the organisation deems democratic elections.

Ms. Babbitt criticised the fact that no debate on the resolution was allowed before the vote. "The United States must underscore our dissatisfaction with the way this resolution has been presented."

None of the other speakers responded to her criticisms. The U.S. diplomat left the hall immediately after her speech.

The United States has a unilateral 34-year-old economic embargo on Castro's Communist government. But several U.S. allies, including Mexico, Canada and the European Union, have substantial business interests on the island.

With about one million Cuban-Americans, most of them in southern Florida, the United States has refused to engage in dialogue with Mr. Castro to try to pressure movement toward Western-style democracy.

But U.S. allies have taken the stand that engaging with Castro on the business front gives his government more of a stake in cooperation with others.

Costa Rica's foreign minister, Fernando Naranjo, defended the action to reporters as the OAS' "genuine right" to examine the U.S. law and rejected U.S. assertions that it plays into Cuba's hands.

"We're not talking here about Cuba, but about the extraterritorial character of the Helms-Burton Law and in the assembly everyone showed that they were very bothered by this law," he said.

In Washington's first action to implement the Helms-Burton Law, the U.S. administration last week warned three companies from Canada, Mexico and Italy that they face possible blacklisting for doing business in Cuba.

Dole wades into Virginia Republican Party fight

CHESTER, VA. (R) — Presumptive presidential nominee Bob Dole waded into a Republican primary fight Tuesday, taking a stand against conservative opponents of Sen. John Warner led by Iran-contra figure Oliver North.

Sen. Warner, a three-term Republican senator who was once married to actress Elizabeth Taylor, is fighting for his political life against James Miller, an aide to former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Miller's campaign may be short on cash but it has a powerful weapon in Col. North, who has vowed to rally his supporters to vote for Mr. Miller.

North, a Marine Colonel, became the central figure in the 1986-87 scandal that rocked the Reagan administration as the brains behind secret operations that sold U.S. arms to Iran and shifted the profits to Nicaragua's contra guerrillas.

Sen. Dole had been urged by Mr. Miller's supporters to stay out of the state until the bruising intraparty battle was decided. But he travelled to Virginia with Sen. Warner, 69. His mission was ostensibly to push a balanced federal budget but the lasting image was of the Republican Party's presumptive presidential candidate standing up for his old friend Sen. Warner.

"Thank you for all the great work you have done in the Senate and will continue to do in the Senate," Sen. Dole said at a campaign rally held in the Pheasant Run Housing Development. His words were brief but as Sen. Warner told reporters it was the picture that counted: "A picture is worth 1,000 words."

"He strongly spoke on my behalf. It's a team — Bob Dole and John Warner. It's been a team for a long time and is going to continue to be a team," said Sen. Warner, who is second on the Senate Armed Services Committee and heads the rules committee.

Some analysts call the primary a "grudge match" for Col. North after Sen. Warner was instrumental in Col. North's defeat in his bid for the seat of Democratic Sen. Charles Robb in 1994. Warner backed independent Marshall Coleman, an act for which the conservatives who dominate the state Republican Party have not forgiven him.

Mr. Miller, 54, a former head of the Federal Trade Commission and budget director for Mr. Reagan, has taken the offensive with radio ads that brand Sen. Warner a liberal.



Gunmen shot and killed Kudirat Abiola (right) on Tuesday. The outspoken wife of Moshood Abiola, the detained millionaire businessman widely believed to have won the 1993 Nigerian presidential polls annulled by the military, is seen in this file picture when she was about to cast her vote along with her husband. Nigerian newspapers speculated that the killing was the work of hired assassins (Reuter photo)

Speculation rife on Abiola wife killers

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian newspapers Wednesday speculated that the killing of the wife of detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola was the work of assassins. "Kudirat Abiola assassinated," headlined National Concord, a daily belonging to Mr. Abiola.

"It was widely speculated that she was killed by suspected hired assassins," said the Punch, a newspaper published in the southwestern heartland of opposition to the military government.

Mrs. Abiola was shot in the head at close range by still unidentified gunmen as she was driving along a Lagos street Tuesday. Her driver was also killed.

The senior wife of Moshood Abiola, she was an outspoken campaigner for the release of her husband.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department Tuesday deplored the murder and called on the government to catch and prosecute the killers.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said it was too soon to tell whether the killing was politically motivated "but it does appear to have been an assassination, not an intended robbery."

"So what we are engaged in doing is calling on the government of Nigeria to thoroughly investigate the crime, diligently pursue these killers and to ensure they're identified and duly prosecuted," Ms. Davies told reporters.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck told the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation): "She was apparently pulled from her car and shot and there was no evidence of any robbery that we are aware of."

Mr. Shattuck, who on a visit to Nigeria last week complained of the worsening human rights situation, said evidence abounded of repression and harassment of the press and opposition, particularly through detentions and secret trials.

"These are all tactics that are being used to harass and repress legitimate political activity," he said.

In Britain, Nigeria's former colonial ruler, the Foreign Office had a more muted response.

"We were sorry to hear this tragic news. We hope that the Nigerian government will quickly investigate the circumstances and bring those responsible to justice," a spokesman said.

Nigerian police have promised a full investigation. Africa's most populous nation with about 100 million people, Nigeria has been in cri-

sis since June 1993 when a presidential election deemed to have been won by Mr. Abiola was annulled by the generals then holding power.

Mr. Abiola has been detained in the capital Abuja since June 1994 when he proclaimed himself president of Nigeria based on the results of the annulled poll.

The United States has repeatedly criticised the military government of General Sani Abacha, who seized power in a coup in November 1993, for its treatment of Mr. Abiola and other political figures.

It has imposed a series of economic sanctions, though it has so far balked at banning oil imports from Nigeria.

Nigerian Police made several arrests Wednesday when they broke up a protest by thousands of students in the city of Ibadan following the assassination of Mrs. Abiola.

The police bolstered security measures in the city and blocked access to the headquarters of Oyo state military governor, Colonel Ike Nwosu, where the protest march was headed, witnesses told AFP.

The crowd dispersed without any clashes between police and protesters but several people, believed to be organisers of the March, were arrested.

Meanwhile, a delegation of government ministers and high-ranking officers from the military junta, led by the Nigerian army Chief-of-Staff General Ishaya Bamaayi, presented its condolences to the Abiola family, sources close to the family said.

The group included Colonel Olagunsoye Oyinlola, the military administrator of Lagos state, and eight government ministers.

General Bamaayi handed over a letter from head of state General Sani Abacha, in which he expressed "shock" at the news of the killing, and promised to do all he could to clarify the "mysterious" circumstances of her death, the sources said.

Thousands of people, mostly students, had gathered for the march earlier in the day in front of Ibadan University as anger spread over Mrs. Abiola's violent death, witnesses said.

Mrs. Abiola, 44, died Tuesday in Eko Hospital, a private clinic in Ikeja in the north of Lagos near where she lived, shortly after unknown gunmen opened fire on her car.

The protestors chanted slogans critical of the military regime and demanded the release of Moshood Abiola and acceptance of the June 1993 presidential election results.

Computer software seen behind Ariane-5 accident

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Space officials said Wednesday that a computer software problem probably sent the first Ariane-5 rocket veering off course Tuesday, prompting ground controllers to blow it up.

Daniel Mugnier, launch operations director for the French Space Agency (CNES), told a news conference that preliminary data indicated computers had sent wrong information to the rocket causing it to change direction and break apart.

He said that the finding was based on data collected on the ground, used to track the technical progress of a rocket launch.

Ground controllers destroyed the rocket, together with its uninsured \$500 million scientific satellite payload, when it veered off course 37 seconds after lift-off in Kourou, French Guiana.

Officials declined to say how much time would be needed to determine the precise cause of the accident and make necessary changes to the rocket.

Space officials said earlier that the probable cause was an electronic guidance error, rather than a more serious propulsion fault. An independent investigation is due to report by mid-July.

Meanwhile Western Europe's ambitious space programme may have gone up in smoke when the first Ariane-5 rocket careered off course and was blown up.

Before the launch, the rocket had been described as having a reliability rate of 98.5 per cent by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The spectacular failure, broadcast live on French Television, recalled the 1986 mid-air explosion of the U.S. space shuttle Challenger, in which seven astronauts died.

This time no one was injured. About 100 guests watching the launch at Toucan, a site

just three kilometres from the launchpad, were evacuated wearing gas masks.

Space officials played down the impact of the blast but analysts said it would be difficult to portray Ariane-5 as the asset maintaining Western Europe's lead in launching heavy satellites and possibly leading to manned space flights.

A sombre ESA Director General Jean-Marie Luton told a news conference at the launch site that Europe's will to pursue the Ariane-5 programme was undiminished.

"Many tests were held before the Ariane-5 launch to make U.S. as reliable as possible but no test permits us to guarantee absolute success, even with the most proven launchers," he said.

In Bonn, German Science and Education Minister Juergen Rueggters said as much information as possible must be gathered before another rocket was launched.

Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace urged its European partners to continue with the programme despite the setback.

The scope of Europe's ambitions for the \$8 billion, 10-year Ariane-5 programme spreads beyond satellite launches.

It was originally conceived to launch Hermes, a European version of the American space shuttle, but that programme was abandoned in the early 1990s because of rising costs and disputes over its scientific and commercial value.

The French National Space Agency (CNES) has advocated a manned space capsule to be carried aboard Ariane-5 for Europe's contribution to the international space station Alpha.

"Europe will have to be more modest in its space ambitions after this incident," said a California-based expert on the European Space Programme.

Woman beaten unconscious in New York park

NEW YORK (R) — A young woman in her 20s was brutally beaten and found with her clothes torn away Tuesday in New York's Central Park. The woman, who carried no identification, was found unconscious by a passerby at 4:08 p.m. (2008 GMT) in the park near the Diana Ross Playground at 81st Street and West Drive. The attack occurred in an isolated area, not far from the playground packed with children, and a short distance from the Museum of Natural History. The victim was undergoing neurosurgery after being rushed to New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Centre where she is fighting for her life, police and officials said.

Central Park has been the scene of other sensational incidents, including the 1995 brutal pre-dawn murder of a Brazilian woman jogger and the 1989 gang rape of a 30-year-old female jogger by several teenagers at night, but this attack apparently was carried out in broad daylight.

At a news conference at the 20th Precinct late Tuesday, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the young woman was in very critical condition and that doctors were still working on her at 10 p.m. (0200 GMT Wednesday). Doctors said it was too early to offer an outlook for her recovery, the mayor added. "It is a vicious, brutal crime," Mr. Giuliani said.

Pig brings home the bacon in U.S. court

LOS ANGELES (R) — Tulip the pot-bellied pig and her owner were in big heaven after prosecutors dropped charges of walking the pet without a leash.

The law in suburban Pasadena says dogs must be walked on a leash but does not address the issues of pigs, owner Kalya Baker's attorney, Robert Marcus, told reporters. "We maintain this law does not apply to the pig and I don't know why the district attorney keeps wanting to bust my client's chops," Mr. Marcus said.

"I'm no cheat" says Oscar-winning film composer

ROME (R) — An Argentine-born composer who won an Oscar for the music to the Italian film Il Postino (The Postman) defended himself from charges of plagiarism, saying he had a God-given gift and had no need to cheat. "I don't understand where the conviction that I copied came from," Luis Bacalov told a news conference. "Fortunately I'm capable of writing 10,000, 500,000 pieces in real time because God gave me this gift. Why would I need to copy someone else?" Bacalov, who picked up the Oscar for best dramatic movie score in Los Angeles in March, was accused last month by Brazilian music stop manager Marco Antonio De Avila of stealing the tune from Italian singer-songwriter Sergio Endrigo.

'Gun-toting granny' ordered to stand trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 71-year-old grandmother who allegedly tried to rob a gas station at gunpoint to pay off a tax bill has been ordered to stand trial on armed robbery charges. "I wonder how he would feel if it was his mother," Mary Blanco said between sobs outside the courtroom after Municipal Judge Bruce Minto set a June 18 trial date. Last month, she pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity in the botched holdup and said she had been driven to it by the Internal Revenue Service. Mrs. Blanco, who is diabetic and cares for her daughter, son-in-law and infant granddaughter, faces 13 years behind bars for attempted armed robbery.

Chechen rebels make tough demands at talks with Russians

NAZRAN, Russia (R) — Chechen rebel leaders laid down tough demands at talks with a top-level Russian delegation Wednesday, calling for an early withdrawal of Russian troops and threatening new fighting if their requests were not met.

But the rebels, describing their offer as a compromise, said they were ready to forgo immediate demands for independence, the basis for their 18-month-old conflict against Russia's troops, until "the people" had a chance to vote on the region's status.

"We do not have any doubt about the status of Chechnya as a free and independent country, but we are ready in the name of peace to ask the Chechen people what form of association they want with Russia," said negotiator Said-Hassan Abumuslimov, new vice-president to rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

"We are offering a big compromise, beyond which we will not go. This is the minimum we can accept."

The status of the north Caucasus region, which declared itself independent in 1991, is the trickiest of a series of problems dividing the two sides in the conflict.

More than 30,000 people have died since Russia sent troops to the region in December 1994 and President Boris Yeltsin, fighting for reelection this month, admits that efforts to resolve

the conflict are important for his chances.

But rebel Chechens attending the talks said the fighting could start again if Russia did not meet their terms — closing military checkpoints within days, withdrawing troops by July 1 and postponing June 16 elections to a regional parliament.

Chechen information chief Movladi Udugov said documents being presented by Chechnya could "bring an end to the war" if they were agreed by both sides. But he added: "If they are not, it will mean a continuation of the war."

The atmosphere was several degrees less frosty than when the talks opened Tuesday. Russian Parliamentarian Vladimir Zorin laughed and joked as he left the talks for a lunch break.

"How everything comes out depends on Allah and the people who carry out his preferences," he said.

The two sides met for surprise talks in Moscow last week and they have already agreed a ceasefire in the rebel region.

But overnight gunfire and explosions in the regional capital Grozny illustrated the fragility of the truce and each side has accused the other of violating the agreement.

Sustained small arms and heavy machine-gun fire erupted in the centre of the city around midnight and flares

and tracer rounds lit Grozny's streets, deserted except for Russian troops because of a night curfew.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Russian troops had come under fire 11 times overnight and two servicemen were hurt.

Mr. Abumuslimov, speaking during a break in the Nazran talks, admitted that the rebels were divided into those who wanted further talks with Mr. Yeltsin and those who would prefer to wait to see if Mr. Yeltsin's Communist rival wins the June 16 poll.

"There is the feeling that perhaps the Communists are no better, but it would be easier to deal with them because they were not guilty of starting the war," he said.

He accused the Russians of dragging their feet on the ceasefire and concentrating on detail in the discussions. "There is no desire (on the Russian side) to discuss the concrete question of war or peace," he said.

The talks in Nazran were also part of last week's ceasefire, reached at a meeting in Moscow between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Yandarbiyev.

The Chechens declared their Caucasus republic independent in 1991 and have said it must stay an independent state.

Mr. Yeltsin says the mountainous region is an integral part of the Russian Federation.



Members of the special forces unit from the Interior Ministry Troops watch Russian soldiers on an APC pass by their check point in Grozny Wednesday. The talks between Chechen rebels and Russia continued Wednesday in Nazran, the capital of Ingushetia (Reuters photo)

Burma papers attack Suu Kyi's husband

RANGOON (R) — Burma's military government broadened recent attacks on democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi Wednesday with a newspaper commentary saying she could not be trusted to be a leader because she has a British husband.

Referring to Ms. Suu Kyi as the "puppet princess", a commentary in the state-run New Light Of Myanmar (Burma) said the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate could not be trusted to keep state secrets if she were ever to become the country's leader.

"Will the wife not let her husband know in the least matters that are connected with the affairs of the state?" said the article, written under the pen name "Patriot".

"In scrutinising the matter of safeguarding the country from dangers and from the point of view of security of the state, it is quite obvious that she cannot be trusted in the least," the commentary said.

Burma's official media is seen as the mouthpiece of the military government.

Ms. Suu Kyi has repeatedly been attacked verbally for her marriage to British academic Michael Aris. The state Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) says she is not a true Burmese because she lived abroad for many years and married a foreigner.

Over the past two weeks, Burma has stepped up its propaganda against foreign interference in the country, calling Ms. Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party "stooges of imperialists."

On Tuesday the New Light Of Myanmar carried a veiled warning that the NLD might be outlawed, attacking the party's recent plan to draft a new constitution.

The NLD angered the SLORC in November when it pulled out of a government-controlled convention drafting the guidelines of a constitution. It said the convention, meeting intermittently since January 1993, did not represent the will of the people.

The SLORC sees its convention as key to its plans for the country and directed the delegates attending to enshrine a "leading role" for the military in future politics.

The government's constitution would also likely prohibit Ms. Suu Kyi from ever becoming leader of Burma since she is married to Mr. Aris and lived outside of Burma for a long period.

Kashmir to get maximum autonomy

NEW DELHI (R) — India's new centre-left government said Wednesday that peace could be brought to rebellious Kashmir by granting citizens greater autonomy while keeping Jammu and Kashmir state within the nation.

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's United Front Alliance government, sworn in Saturday, also said India would hold talks with Pakistan to bring peace to the Himalayan region, which both countries claim.

"The problems of Jammu and Kashmir will be resolved through giving the people of that state the maximum degree of autonomy," the government said in a policy blueprint.

It said the state was an inalienable part of India and a package of measures would be completed on the basis of consultations and Article 370 of the constitution, which grants the region more autonomy than any other Indian state.

The government plans to hold elections to the state assembly as soon as possible following general elections in the state last month. "Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in predominantly Hindu India, 'last held' elections to the provincial assembly in 1987."

The state government was dismissed in 1990 shortly after an uprising against

Indian rule was launched. The region has since been ruled directly by New Delhi.

Police and doctors estimate as many as 20,000 people have been killed in the rebellion.

Alliance spokesman Jaipal Reddy said the Home (Interior) Ministry was completing an autonomy package for Kashmir and details on the measures were still being worked out.

"We would like to go an extra mile to meet the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "Naturally, we (also) want to talk to Pakistan."

Secular India and Islamic Pakistan have fought two wars over the region since they were carved out of British-ruled India in 1947. Islamabad has denied New Delhi's allegations that it arms and trains militants fighting for independence.

The two countries have not held talks on Kashmir or any other substantive issue for more than two years.

Kashmiri leaders have said the region's special autonomy under Article 370 of the Indian constitution has been diluted.

Farooq Abdullah, leader of the largest pro-India party in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference, has called for restoration of the state's autonomous status as a precondition for participating in state assembly polls.

Taiwan President retains premier

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui, wielding his new popular mandate, moved Wednesday to retain Lien Chan as premier without a nod from parliament, risking a constitutional showdown with opposition parties.

The move came hours after parliament whittled away 16.2 billion Taiwan dollars (\$590 million) from Mr. Lee's proposed 1996-97 budget, which lawmakers finally approved early Wednesday at 1.196 trillion Taiwan dollars, ending months of often-bitter partisan debate.

Several projects dear to the government were cut by the Legislative Yuan, where the ruling Nationalist Party retains a knife-edge 51 per cent majority and faces intense opposition.

Among them were funding for Taiwan's fourth nuclear power plant, 1.2 billion Taiwan dollars in defence spending and 398 million Taiwan dollars earmarked for a presidential jet.

Presidential Chief of Staff Wu Poh-Hsiung said after a meeting of the nationalist leadership that President Lee would simply reject the premier's ceremonial resignation rather than formally renominate him — thus skirting legislative review.

"Since this is not another nomination of a premier, of course it does not involve asking the Legislative Yuan (parliament) to exercise its endorsement," Mr. Wu said.

Mr. Lien and the rest of the Executive Yuan, or cabinet, offered their resignations in a constitutional formality a few days before Mr. Lee and running mate Mr. Lien were inaugurated as president and vice president on May 20.

They were elected by a landslide on March 23 in the first popular presidential

election in Chinese history, which gave the charismatic Lee a powerful political mandate. Presidents hitherto were elected indirectly by the National Assembly.

Mr. Lee had pledged during the campaign to select a new premier in the event that he and Mr. Lien were elected.

Chief of Staff Wu said the president made the decision to retain Mr. Lien after a "long and careful consideration" and asked for public understanding.

"The decision is based on Premier Lien Chan's excellent knowledge and ability, his familiarity with the Executive Yuan operations and the stability and unity of the current situation," Mr. Wu said without further elaboration.

The move to keep Mr. Lien in both posts has rekindled a continuing constitutional debate, with opposition lawmakers saying it concentrated too much power in the president's hands.

Opposition parties insisted parliament must retain and wield its authority to approve cabinet appointments.

"Although Premier Lien Chan is now also vice president, we still must exercise our endorsement power," said new party leader and lawmaker Yok Mu-Ming.

The main opposition Democratic Progressive Party suggested Mr. Lee's move did not fit with Taiwan's political liberalisation.

"In this new era we should change to new things, not continue with old things," party leader Chang Chun-Hung said.

Mr. Wu defended the move to skirt legislative approval by citing two precedents under which sitting Taiwan premiers were retained without parliament's endorsement after becoming vice president.

Philippine military capture rebel leader, insurgent camp

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippine military said Wednesday it had captured a suspected Communist guerrilla leader in Manila and overrun a Muslim secessionist camp in the south of the country.

Dario Cana, ranked number six in the urban assassination unit Alex Boncayo Brigade (ABB), was arrested in Antipolo east of Manila Tuesday, Air Force Chief Lieutenant General Arnolfo Acedera told reporters.

A handgun and explosives were also seized from him, he said.

Mr. Cana is suspected of involvement in grenade attacks in Manila's financial district in early 1996 which damaged the local headquarters of two multinational firms.

The suspect told reporters he was innocent and insisted he was a welder.

The ABB have been blamed for killing over 200 soldiers, policemen and civilians in Manila during the 1980s. However popular revulsion against their killings led them to flee low for much of this decade.

Meanwhile, the army said it had captured a large camp held by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) near the southern town of Carmen.

The operation Tuesday yielded mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and ammunition, a military spokesman in Cotabato told reporters.

A rebel unit manning it fled after a brief firefight. No casualties were reported.

The camp was in the vicinity of a Japanese-funded irrigation dam project in Carmen that has been harassed by the MILF.

Clinton: Japan 'gracious' in accident apology

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Tuesday quickly accepted Japan's "gracious" apology for the accidental downing of a U.S. Navy jet and his aides stressed the strong bilateral defence ties that underpin security policy in the Pacific.

"He accepts the gracious expression of regret by the Japanese government," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Details of the apology were not immediately available.

Two navy crewmen ejected safely when their A-6E "Intruder" towing a target for ship-to-air gunnery practice, was hit by fire from a U.S.-made galling gun on the Japanese destroyer Yuguri during war-games off Hawaii.

"They're okay," Mr. Clinton shouted to reporters as he left the White House for a trip to New Jersey.

The Pentagon identified the crewmen as Lt. Cmdr. William Royster of Kansas City, Missouri, the pilot, and Lt. Keith Douglas of Birmingham, Alabama, the bombardier-navigator.

Mr. McCurry said Mr. Clinton had been informed of the shutdown overnight.

The State Department said it doubted the United States would seek compensation from Japan for the loss of the jet.

"I don't think that the question of compensation would even arise in this case," spokesman Glyn Davies said. "I've not heard of it arising in similar cases in the past that involved military-to-military incidents like this."

In an apparent move to head off any negative fallout for sensitive U.S.-Japanese relations, the head of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, based in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, Adm. Ronald Zia-toper, said he was "most appreciative" of expressions of concern and regret from the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF).

"This immediate and personal contact demonstrates again the close relationship between the United States' Navy and the JMSDF," a fleet spokesman, Lt. Jeff Davis, said from Pearl Harbour. Japanese officials had contacted Adm. Zia-toper, who has responsibility for U.S. Naval Forces in the Pacific, to express regret and apologise, navy officials said.

Hillary Clinton's fingerprints found on billing records

WASHINGTON (R) — The FBI said Tuesday that two of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's fingerprints had been found on her legal billings records, which turned up mysteriously at the White House last August.

The records had been missing for some time in the Whitewater investigation and were later discovered on a White House table.

They have since been examined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI told the Senate Whitewater Committee that her prints were among 53 found on records showing Mrs. Clinton's legal work for Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. The failed bank was owned by the Clintons' Whitewater real estate business partner, James McDougal.

There was no immediate indication of the significance of the findings, made public as the Senate committee prepared to end its year-long investigation.

A new poll released Tuesday, meanwhile, said few Americans think Whitewater is a very important issue in the aftermath of fraud convictions last week of Mr. McDougal and his former wife Susan.

A CBS News/New York Times survey of 1,200 adults found that 82 per cent had heard at least something about the Arkansas Real Estate Development called Whitewater, but only 15 per cent said it was of "great importance" to the nation.

The poll found that 35 per cent said Whitewater was of "some importance," but 42 per cent said the issue was of "very little importance" — numbers that have changed little since the same question was asked in April 1994.

"This FBI fingerprint information raises important questions that the committee will examine in the coming days," committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato, R-New York, said.

But associate White House counsel Mark Fabiani bailed the report as "good news," saying the evidence undermined a conspiracy theory that White House staffers had removed the billing records from the office of White House Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster after he had committed suicide in

1993.

There has been wide speculation that Mrs. Clinton's Chief of Staff Maggie Williams removed the records. Her prints were not among those found.

"Today's announcement repeats again the pattern of Senator D'Amato's partisan hearings: Whenever hard facts are permitted to replace rank innuendo, the Republican Whitewater charges disappear," Mr. Fabiani said in a statement.

The Whitewater committee's Republican counsel Michael Chertoff told a news conference the next question to be probed was "when and under what circumstances" the prints were made. He said he knew of no way to tell the age of fingerprints.

The committee's Democratic counsel Richard Ben-Veniste said it was not surprising that Mrs. Clinton's prints were found on two pages among the sheaf of records and suggested they were put there when she was seeking answers to press questions about the Whitewater affair during the 1992 presidential campaign.

The FBI report said that among the other prints found were four belonging to Mr. Foster and six of White House aide Carolyn Huber, who found the long-missing documents on a table in a room in the White House residence last August.

Ms. Huber put the records away and rediscovered them in January when she realised what they were.

Other prints were identified as belonging to Mildred Alston, special assistant to the president who Mr. Chertoff said was believed to have worked for Mrs. Clinton in Arkansas.

Release of the fingerprint report came as the committee's top Democrat, Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, protested that Republican staff had been communicating privately on the prints with the office of independent Whitewater counsel Kenneth Starr, who is conducting a criminal investigation.

Meanwhile in Little Rock, U.S. District Judge Susan Wright ordered Mr. Clinton to testify in a politically explosive trial of two Arkansas bankers accused of using bank funds to make campaign contributions.

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 684311, 699634
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

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First summit goes well

THE PRINCIPAL message coming out of yesterday's Aqaba summit grouping His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was the decision to adopt a "wait and see" posture in the wake of the election in Israel of the Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister. There was a consensus among the three leaders that the Arab side should not pass premature judgements on the upcoming Likud-led government. There was also unanimity that the peace process has developed a momentum of its own — to the extent that it has become irreversible. The entire international community, especially the major powers, it was noted, has too much vested interest in the success of the process to let it slip.

President Mubarak was hard-pressed to explain why Egypt was participating in two separate Arab summits, the one in Aqaba and the other in Riyadh on Friday which will also include Syria, rather than trying to bring all parties together under one roof. But he was candid in admitting that larger gatherings were not possible for now, and certainly not an all encompassing summit. What Egypt might be expected to do next is to prepare the ground for a meeting where at least the participants in the Aqaba and Riyadh summits get together — prior to and before a full Arab summit can be called. This, we think, is very important not only because of the Likud's rise to power in Israel but also because there are no fundamental differences among the parties concerned.

King Hussein alluded to this yesterday when he made a notably conciliatory gesture towards President Hafez Al Assad by emphasising that their personal relationship remained good despite the estrangement in political ties.

In any case, and judging by the communiqué that was issued yesterday, the future of the Palestinian track took centre stage in the deliberations of the three Arab leaders. The King and President Mubarak obviously wanted most of all to ally Palestinian fears about the results of the Israeli elections and to reassure President Arafat that they will not abandon his people in their determination to have all accords with Israel honoured, likewise, His Majesty made it a point to reassure Mr. Arafat that Jordan was not now, nor will it ever be, interested in speaking for the Palestinians, regardless of who was in power in Israel.

Jordan, the Monarch said, supports wholeheartedly and unequivocally the Palestinian struggle for independence and statehood on their national soil. And if it was impossible to achieve statehood, it would even be more impossible for Jordan to claim representation of the Palestinian people and their cause.

With this in mind, we feel the Arab reaction to Netanyahu's election will be more solid and meaningful. We just hope that the Riyadh summit would reinforce the groundwork laid at Aqaba, crystallising in the process a united Arab stand in the face of the challenge that lies ahead.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily described the Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian summit held in Aqaba Wednesday as an important step on the way to restoring Arab solidarity and unifying Arab stands to enable the Arab Nation to counter challenges facing it. The summit, Al Ra'i said in its editorial Wednesday, should contribute to continuing the Middle East peace process, especially after the election of Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's new prime minister. This, of course, requires a new method of dealing with Israel and offering more support to the Palestinians in their final-status negotiations with a new team of negotiators who have different ideas from their predecessors, it said. The newspaper added that the summit comes in the eve of an awaited summit in Riyadh, to be attended by the Egyptian and Syrian presidents. It voiced hope that these summits will contribute to ending disunity which characterised inter-Arab relations since the Gulf crisis.

A COLUMIST in Al Dustour Arabic daily dwelt on the same summit, saying it is a mere coincidence that the summit is held on the 29th anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the loss of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula to the Jewish state. Saleh Al Qallab said this anniversary will remind the three leaders present at the summit — His Majesty King Hussein, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Hosni Mubarak — of the way the war started and ended, and of the way "the revolutionary voices," which were louder than should be, led the Arabs into the trap of a war they were not prepared to fight. "We will not tell the leaders meeting on Jordanian land, in Aqaba which is the historical link between Egypt, Palestine and Jordan, what they should do. They know, more than all the analysts and observers, the reasons they are meeting for and the difficult situation we are facing as a region and as a nation," said the writer.

The View from Academia

Speeding in a psycho-cultural context

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THAT MANY, if not most, of our motorists speed is clear enough. What may not be so clear, however, are the reasons why they speed.

There are, first of all, the usual (somewhat excusable or justifiable) reasons. Motorists speed in cases of emergency, in cases when they are late for work or for an engagement, in cases when the road condition allows them to speed, in cases when the speed limit is itself unreasonably low, etc.

The latter two are important to pay attention to because the speed limit on many of our road signs needs to be modified and upgraded significantly. There are many roads in our towns and cities and off city limits in which you are requested to drive at 60 kms per hour when you can easily, conveniently and safely drive at 80.

There are, however, less excusable or justifiable reasons — reasons which we may best call psycho-cultural. Among these are the following two:

— Speeding for feeling provoked. Many of our drivers, both young and old, take motoring too personally, as it were. When you try to pass someone who is driving at an unnecessarily leisurely and low speed and who, for some reason, does not relish the idea of your overtaking him, he suddenly steps on the gas and starts outspeeding and outracing you and everyone else on the road, parading his motoring skills dangerously.

There are times when you may find yourself (sober,

mature and reasonable though you generally are) forced to do the same, but for a different reason. Take the following scenario. You are on an errand of some sort, driving in a one-lane road on a two-way street, and a slow vehicle is in front of you. You try to pass, but you cannot because of the heavy oncoming traffic. You have been doing this for a couple of minutes, hoping that either the traffic coming from the other direction lessens or the Sunday-cruiser in front of you speeds up a little. You try to encourage him to speed up by honking. He does not pay any attention, talking to a buddy of his or staring fixedly, almost stoned, on the road ahead of him. He is going 30 kms per hour on a road on which the speed limit is 60 or 70. Notice that I am not talking here about large vehicles which, due to their heavy load, are going slow, but about motorists of small vehicles who are either inconsiderate of others or think safe-driving is slow driving. What would you do? At the nearest opportunity, you pass him at the speed of a 100 kms per hour, at times caring the least about the possible consequences. You either do this or have a heart attack.

There are many low-speeders on our roads, and these are as dangerous in my opinion as reckless high-speeders.

— Speeding in order to impress. Many of those who speed in our part of the world think it both impressive and prestigious to do so. Among many of the young motorists, high speed is extremely common. They make it a point when they drive to impress each other or to impress mem-

bers of the other sex (actually, many of the older drivers do the same). One cannot be considered a good driver unless one speeds. The model driver, according to our traffic laws and our traffic officials, may be the one who drives carefully, who observes traffic rules and regulations, and who shows ample respect to others.

In much of our culture (among the young as among the old) the good driver is the impressive driver (the "bitter chauffeur," as we call him). The "bitter" driver, of course, is the one who speeds a lot and who manifests great skills (at time acrobatic skills) while motoring.

This cultural factor is embedded deeply in the psyche of many of our motorists. It is interesting to remind here of the semi-folk song encouraging motorists to "step on the gas at the speed of 199." In wedding processions, on group trips, and on the way to picnics, it is customary for passengers to sing urging the driver to speed. In most cases, the driver is more than willing to oblige. In a traffic disaster a few years ago, the driver admitted before the TV camera that he speeded in response to the chant of passengers.

Unless there is a change of attitude and of heart in our psyche and our culture vis-à-vis speeding, it is going to be with us for a long time. Unless we address the psycho-cultural causes, traffic disasters are also going to be with us for a long time.

Combating corruption means going to its roots causes

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

TWO WEEKS ago, this column addressed one aspect of corruption: how the low pay of public officials can be the primary cause of corruption in Jordan. However, through discussions with several of my colleagues over the past week, it was brought to my attention that many sources of corruption were left unmentioned, sources that are just as relevant as low public salaries in promoting an environment in which corruption can flourish. Other features that may contribute to corruption in Jordan merit further investigation.

Corruption is the abuse of power for personal gain. The abuse of public knowledge and privileges is the most common misuse of authority that is fostered by the absence of laws that address this issue. The introduction of laws to the Jordanian legislature in a transparent manner to rectify these abuses will give both public defenders and the public at-large a leg to stand on in combating sev-

eral forms of corruption. The necessary laws are:

— An anti-nepotism law: This law would prevent a civil servant from hiring his/her relatives within his department or in the area of his jurisdiction. The creation of this law would not be difficult; the United Nations operates under a similar policy and most if not all developed countries have existing nepotism laws. In addition to addressing the corruption issue, an advantage to passing such a law would be the dilution of our ever growing tribalism which is no longer necessary in a society of law and order.

Tribal allegiances and loyalties were significant during the initial stages of Jordan's development and their continuance has been made possible through what is known in the Western world as networking activities; i.e., in looking for a job a person relies on his network of relatives to secure employment. Relatives help relatives in securing government jobs because performing such an

act costs the interceder or giver almost nothing — society pays the salary of his relative. In some cases where the relative is totally unqualified, he/she may be foisted upon someone who is outside — the family, in which case a nepotism law becomes ineffective. Using "wasta" is a blatant form of rent-seeking behaviour that disrupts the market system mechanism and the production process. Avoidance of such acts is feasible only through a tight law.

— A competition/antitrust law: This law (or group of laws) would prevent questionable business practices and make illegal many practices that are rampant in Jordan at the current time. These practices include: the use of inside information by public officials to their advantage; giving monopoly rights to individuals who in turn compensate the public official through economic rewards; delaying the processing of paper work for a competitor while speeding up the process for another, more favoured competitor;

and disclosing private information obtained by a public official during the course of his/her work to the detriment of the competitive process. Once non-competitive acts and monopolistic practices are eliminated, many of the so-called corrupt practices that plague our economy will disappear.

Another change that would limit the incidence of corruption in Jordan is to privatise the economy, thereby reducing the number of government employees and thus the number of corrupt public officials; and decreasing government contracts and bids as the size of the government decreases. However, we must be cognisant that without a competition law the privatisation process may unleash upon us a wave of corruption as people rush to obtain monopoly rights from the government. The result again efficiency falls victim to non-market activities.

The laws should be kept to a minimum in order not to confuse the citizen and to reduce the chance of having

him/her at the mercy of public officials every time he/she wants to produce a good or a service. The laws need to be transparent so that loopholes and vagueness can be avoided. Specific, tightly worded laws reduce the likelihood that a person will commit an offence through ignorance simply because the law is cryptically written and presented.

Tight, well-written laws are just the first step towards reducing the potential for corruption. Punishment for the acts must be set forth. Gary Becker, the Noble laureate asserts that punishment must be made severe, while the possibility of being caught and punished must increase. This makes the outcome of committing a corrupt act more costly to the would-be offender, especially if his/her salary is comparable with what he/she is producing. That is, given tight and clear laws, a high probability of being caught and punished coupled with the fact that a person may lose his/her income, which is most probably quite high,

eliminates the rational motive for committing corrupt acts. A rational criminal would weigh the benefits and the costs of committing a crime before perpetrating the act. As long as society makes the cost of being caught outweigh the benefit from the act, crimes will be minimised. To coin the old motto, we must ensure that "crime does not pay".

In fighting corruption we should not concentrate on the manifestation of corruption, rather we should focus on the root causes of the problem, albeit going after the roots of corruption is more costly than the act of which bunting which requires no skill or sophistication in treatment — and which does not solve the problem in the long run (it may escalate the problem further by increasing chances for corruption). Our focus must be directed towards the elimination of the causes of corruption in our society.

Canada — back to crisis

By Gwynne Dyer

ON May 10 the trees of Montreal finally gave up waiting for spring (which may never arrive this year), and simultaneously burst into leaf just for the hell of it. On the same day, in rather the same spirit, the separatist government of Quebec switched back into crisis mode, abandoning its brief pretence of caring about tedious, workaday things like deficits and unemployment.

The "provocation" was a claim by Ottawa that the Canadian constitution would still apply in the French-speaking province, even after a vote for independence, until Quebec negotiated its withdrawal from the federation. Pretty obvious stuff, but the response by the Parti Quebecois (PQ) government was hysterical.

Jacques Brassard, Quebec's minister for relations with Ottawa, promptly denounced "an assault on... the most fundamental right of the Quebec people — the right to settle their own future." Emergency cabinet meetings were called, and rumours began to fly of a snap election in Quebec, to be followed immediately by another referendum on independence (the third in 15 years).

It has been only six months since the last Quebec referendum, on Oct. 30, 1995, rejected independence by a narrow 50.5 per cent-49.5 per cent margin. Premier Lucien Bouchard has talked about wanting to serve a full term and fix Quebec's debt-ridden economy before raising the great existential question again, but the temptation to

hold another referendum as soon as possible is hard to resist.

Ever since the separatists came so close to victory in the last referendum, opinion polls have consistently shown that they would win another one with 53 or 54 per cent of the vote. And that does not even take account of the exodus of angles and other "ethnics" that is now getting under way in Montreal. So why should the separatists wait years' before holding another referendum?

The non-Francophone minorities — about 1 million of Quebec's 7 million people — are alarmed by the prospect of a Quebec republic founded on a basically ethnic nationalism. They account for most of the "one in six people" who have considered leaving Quebec since last October, according to a local opinion pollster. And quite a few of them are leaving this year.

Despairing real estate agents in Montreal estimate that between 50,000 and 75,000 people may leave the city this year: enough to turn last year's "no" into a "yes" by their absence, even if everybody else voted the same way in the next referendum.

But you still need a pretext for inflicting another poll on the population so quickly, and the first six months after the referendum afforded few such opportunities.

The notion of partitioning not just Canada but Quebec itself in the event of separation has spread from the naive Cree and Inuit (who were always determined to keep their

parts of Quebec within Canada), to the English-speaking majorities in the west end of Montreal and along parts of the Ottawa Valley. But partition was not good ground for the separatists to fight on.

Separatist propaganda always denies that Quebec's transition to independence might be painful or expensive, let alone violent. So the PQ leadership obviously did not want to go into the next referendum campaign talking about the "partitionists" who would lay claim to over half of Quebec's territory.

Better to fight about the constitution — and now Guy Bertrand may have given them a pretext. Last August, outraged by a referendum question that authorised the Quebec government to declare unilateral independence in the case of a "yes" vote, the prominent Quebec city lawyer went to the Quebec Superior Court to demand that it protect his rights as a Canadian citizen.

No province, he claimed, could abrogate those rights by a unilateral act rejecting the Canadian constitution. The court agreed, though it did not ban the referendum itself.

Now Bertrand is back in court, demanding that future referenda which propose unconstitutional courses of action be outlawed. The federal government has tried desperately to avoid getting involved in the case, knowing a political no-win situation when it sees one, but recently the Quebec government has forced its hand.

The PQ government sent

a lawyer to the court to argue that the Canadian constitution and the courts were irrelevant if most Quebecois voted for independence. It had already declared that it would not be bound by a negative decision of the court, so there was no motive for this deliberate attack on the rule of law — unless it wanted to draw Ottawa into a fight on the constitution.

"When the attorney-general of Quebec states flatly that the accession of Quebec to sovereignty is a matter which has nothing to do with our constitution or the courts or the rule of law, I'm afraid we have to take a position," said federal Justice Minister Allan Rock on May 10. And the fat was in the fire.

The court is bound to rule in the federal government's favour. That will give Lucien Bouchard ample excuse, if he wants it, to declare a crisis that justifies calling a snap election three years early. He would surely win it — and once he does, he will be free to hold another referendum on independence at once. (Quebec law forbids two referenda on the same topic in the same term.)

Quebec's independence has never seemed closer — but it has never seemed more perilous, either. By claiming the right to take a unilateral route to independence, the PQ government has accepted that there can be a fundamental rupture in the rule of law.

It is taking a road that guarantees that many people, including almost all natives and most Anglophones, would still claim the protection of Canadian

law in a post-independence Quebec. That means partition, refugees, checkpoints, and maybe much worse.

It has not happened yet, and maybe it never will. But Mark Phillips, an old friend who has been covering the wars for CBS Tele-

vision for many years, recently visited Montreal, his home town, for the first time in years. At the end of a week he still thought Montreal differed from Sarajevo in one fundamental respect: "In Montreal, the high ground is in the middle of the city."

LETTERS

Short is better

To the Editor:

I happen to share all of Marwan Attala's views on two-day weekends expressed by him in his article "Shorter work weeks could give a boost to the economy" (Jordan Times, June 2, 1996), especially as I have worked under both systems (i.e., 5-day/2-day weekend and 6-day/1-day weekend).

Though Mr. Attala put the flow of activities that could happen as a consequence of a 2-day weekend in a very nice manner, I just would like to add two points that are relevant. First, having two days off puts a lower demand on one's physique, thus improving productivity during the 5 working days which, in turn, produces better overall economic results and gives a kick back to the employee at the end of the year. That makes him more enthusiastic and motivates him to do as well, or better, the year after... and here you have the snowball effect.

Second, night life and touristic activities will increase due to the availability of more spare time, which will attract tourists into Jordan, and help it earn hard currency and benefit local industries.

As it stands now in the world of economics, there is not one defined factor for economic growth/development. However, I believe that the proposed shorter work week will certainly contribute to the Jordanian one?

Ramzi Batarseh,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Society on the Move

Press and politics, business and pleasure: mixed bags of certain uncertainties

Heading out well ahead of the planned phase-out of the Ministry of Information is its Secretary General, Nayef Mawla. A career diplomat with earlier postings in Tunisia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Brazil and the U.S., Mr. Mawla leaves the ministry next week after three-and-a-half years in the number-two spot to work in a secondment position for Bahraini Crown Prince Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifeh. Relations with Bahrain are "very strong," and Mr. Mawla has known the heir apparent of Bahrain for some time. Sa when Sheikh Hamad expressed an interest in benefiting from same Jordanian expertise, the powers that be suggested the secretary general. Mr. Mawla leaves the ministry where he first started working in 1971 before his diplomatic appointments. When he last came back to Jordan he expected it would be a permanent stay. Although Bahrain is not so great a distance away, he expects his three daughters to stay in Amman where they will be completing school under the watchful eye of their mother. The secretary general tonight holds a reception at Amra Hotel to which many colleagues, associates and friends have been invited to bid him farewell. Meanwhile, the expected phase-out of the ministry is supposed to make provisions to distribute the remaining staff to other information departments in the government. It is probably too early to tell who would go where since no decisions have been taken to that effect. The minister, Dr. Muasher, is making new legislation, rather than personnel changes, his top priority for now.

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T: On the other side of information service, we ask: Will turmoil in the press circles ever cease? Daubiful. Take the supposed comeback of columnist Tareq Masarwah to Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Mr. Masarwah left the paper last month, angry that several of his columns were considered too sensitive to print and thus spiked. His return, which was to be effective Tuesday, was announced, albeit prematurely, in the paper by Al Ra'i Chairman Mahmoud Al Kayed. But when readers turned the pages to find what the sometimes stinging commentator had to say this week, they came up dry. According to Masarwah, his Tuesday column, which this week was to have claimed that columnists cannot be made to play to the tune of politicians, was, once again, rejected. The comeback, at best, seems to have been pushed back. But in the fast paced lanes of press and politics, a Masarwah column could pop up today, tomorrow or as in fact it did in Wednesday's Newspaper. Happy return, everybody.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS: A businessman who hates business, a rich man who hates money, a hater of bureaucracy and a lover of Amman, that is how prominent Ammanite-Osama Shashah likes to describe himself. So how does that explain his recent appointment to the Amman Municipal Council by the Council of Ministers? Mr. Shashah, proprietor of the soon-to-be 30-year-old Amman Bookshop, has often been suspected of taking the seat of mayor of the capital almost as often as it has been vacated, therefore his naming to the council could be seen as the natural course of things. When consulted if he had anyone in mind for the council seat vacated by Governor of Amman Talat Nawawish recently, Amman Mayor Mamduh Abbadi answered a simple no. Enter Mr. Shashah. He succeeds Mr. Nawawish who resigned over legal wrangling of whether he, as governor of Amman, was eligible to hold a seat on the council as well. Observers believe that Mr. Shashah may well take on the deputy mayorship too. The businessman-publisher-writer-critic says that while in office he would like to see three measures accomplished: a beautifying of Amman with more greenery and natural tone pavements; no more "wasta" allow-

ing far restaurants and buildings without adequate parking; and more equality between East and West Amman, particularly as Amman emerges to be a genuine tourist hub. Friends, from Mr. Shashah's rather eclectic circle, can congratulate the confirmed bachelor who is reluctant to reveal his age, at the party he is throwing to celebrate the renovation and birthday of his Amman Bookshop. His friends do not know it, but the appointment to the council seat might bring with it a wife. You'll have to ask the man himself about that.

MR. AVIATION: After 41 years in the aviation business of the Kingdom, Mohammad Samir Bilal, assistant vice-president for IATA (International Air Transport Association) and industry affairs has retired from Royal Jordanian. Back in 1955 Mr. Bilal worked for Jordan's very first airline, Air Jordan, which merged with Arab Airways (another private Jordanian company) to become Air Jordan of the Holy Land. Later from 1961 to 63, Jordan Airways took over air transport operations in the country until December 1963 when ALIA, today's Royal Jordanian, came into being. Mr. Bilal worked for each until last week's retirement. At 60 he is still vigorous, and with a lifetime of service to the national air carrier from Sales and Reservations superintendant to director of Trade Affairs and Tariffs to the past at Industry and IATA Affairs. Mr. Bilal has now been asked to write the history of civil aviation in Jordan. While most of his colleagues would have liked to keep him around for another five years, they will certainly be looking forward to his contribution to the annals of Jordan's aviation history, that is if he decides to accept the offer. The experienced man has some solid offers to enter the private sector and have a go at a contribution from there to the travel and tourism industry. Succeeding Mr. Bilal is AWP Marketing and Sales, Mamduh Qalabi who had, prior to returning to the hub, served as RJ area manager in Toronto. Knowingly how Mr. Bilal's names used to ring non-stop with tariffs and ticketing questions from RJ's worldwide destinations, Mr. Qalabi will do well to get some ear cushions.

Mohammad 'Samir' Bilal

WHEN DUTY CALLS: Back in Jordan again is Lars Lonnback, Swedish Ambassador to Jordan from 1986 to 1990. Mr. Lonnback is here to attend next week's meeting on Euro-Islam relations at AL Al Bayt University sponsored by the Swedish government and organised by the university. Having worked for the Swedish Foreign Ministry as an expert on Muslim relations, his participation at the conference is in his capacity as a consultant. A true friend of Jordan, Mr. Lonnback stepped in to steer the Swedish embassy in Amman during the interim period after the retirement of former Ambassador Christian Bausch and the assumption of the post by Ambassador Agneta Bahman just prior to the Middle East and North Africa summit here in Amman last October. Mr. Lonnback, who this time is not

accompanied by his wife, says he loves being in Jordan and was glad to visit the Scandinavian "stronghold" in the namesake forest overlooking the Baqa Valley and listen to Dances singing Arabic folk songs. His trip also coincides with the observance of Sweden's National Day, heralded in last night with a party at Mrs. Bahman's. His many friends are happy to welcome back the veteran diplomat, and expect to hear more from him as the three-day conference proceeds out in Mo'raq.

HAIR BRITANNIA: While Japan Week will actually stretch into two weeks beginning June 8, British Week kicks off on June 14, but not before this Friday's Annual Summer Ball — a black tie event with entertainment by the Azraq Blues Band at the British Embassy Club. In any case, what the embassy of the U.K. would like to highlight during British Week is the 50th anniversary of Jordan's Independence, the termination of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty and thus the new relationship between Britain and Jordan which emerged as a result. Events, all happening at the Farie Grand Hotel, include: a "British Lifestyles Exhibition" (June 16-19) of more than 100 British companies from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; the play "Bedside Manners" performed (June 15 and 16) by the Derek Nimmo Players; concerts by the Map Taps "Beatles" (June 17 and 18), an evening of magic with illusionist Alan Shaxon on June 20th, and a dinner theatre starring Ruth Maddoc in "Hiss & Boo." There will also be an exhibition of David Roberts originals and British culinary feats at most of the hotel's restaurants. Ambassador Peter Hinchliffe said of the coming event: "For me personally, British Week will mark the culmination of my embassy's efforts to improve the already excellent relations which exist between the U.K. and Jordan in all aspects of the relationship."

EXTENDING EXPERTISE: Incidentally, last week we mentioned a party hosted for visiting British MPs in Amman by U.K. Ambassador Peter Hinchliffe and his wife Archie. That was only part right. We have since discovered that Archie Hinchliffe was actually much further northeast, way over in Afghanistan running a course in the Taliban-controlled areas for assistant physiotherapists working on community-based rehabilitation programmes. Rehabilitation in Afghanistan has usually meant dealing with victims of landmines, and in that conflict-ridden part of the world disabled children have been neglected. Mrs. Hinchliffe's task is thus to enable better trained physiotherapists to work in the family setting. The course is financed by the Swedish Save the Children Fund and administered by the U.N.'s Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Project. The Taliban are a conservative people, and as some of the physiotherapists are men, Mrs. Hinchliffe has had to be veiled while running her course. She has been virtually out of touch with the outside world apart from a twice-daily radio schedule with Peshawar in Pakistan. This work is an extension of what she has been doing in Jordan.

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS: Here in Jordan a similar sort of healthcare aid has been meeting with great success for more than four decades, it is called Germanaid-Baden. A mission of HRH Max Markgraf von Baden (of Germany) since 1952, the project provides support and help to refugees all over the world: Ethiopian refugees in Sudan, and projects in Romania, Croatia, Hungary and Jordan. Prince Max is a close friend of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, and during the Gulf crisis he sent significant donations to



(Above) Mafraq Sanatorium nurse Anya holds Hammoudeh Abdullah upon admission to the clinic. (Right) Nine-month-old Hammoudeh after three months of care



the Kingdom to help the refugees of that conflict. Any time he comes across an in-kind contribution, he contacts the Office of the Crown Prince to see if it can be useful. Once such recent donation helped in providing milk to children in the Mafraq and Ras Al Naqb areas, where since the mid-60s two women have been working to help save the lives of the residents of those remote regions through the Al Nuor Sanatorium Society for Chest Diseases. They are 80-year-old Aleanar Saltan from the U.S. and 65-year-old Aileen Coleman of Australia. The mission of these two selfless women started back in the early 50s in Amman on the West Bank. Today they report just one of the many happy-ending experiences they have had. A six-month-old boy named Hammoudeh Abdullah of the Masadeh tribe in Um Junul was brought in to the Mafraq Sanatorium critically malnourished and dehydrated. Three months later, benefiting from the milk distribution programme and the tender care of all at the clinic, Hammoudeh was what every baby should be: a healthy bouncing bundle of joy, thanks to the concern of people like Prince Max, Ms. Soltan and Ms. Coleman.

N.B. Last week we reported on a young Jordanian student who was selected to attend The National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. The news itself was received by the J.T. in the form of a press release from the NYLC. What the statement failed to say, and we have since learned, is that this year there are actually seven other high school students, all from the Amman Baccalaureate School, who have been chosen to participate in the NYLC at various intervals this summer. Recognising their achievements, we name them here: Reem Sharaila, Rasha Sha'ath, Marwa Buril, Zena Muril, Rami Shatayeh, Kurium Seifi and Rami Rumeleh.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Forget the Riviera, France's west coast is 'in'

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

PARIS — Forget the Riviera. The "in" place to vacation in this summer is France's west coast.

In one of those sea-changes in lifestyle, the Mediterranean Cote D'azur with its overcrowded beaches, concrete apartment blocks and bumper-to-bumper traffic is "out".

French and foreign holidaymakers are switching in growing numbers to the less crowded, cheaper and more wholesome pleasures of the Atlantic coast, even if it means trading a bikini and sun-tan oil for rubber boots and oilskins.

"Chic goes west tourism to the south declines," the August daily Le Monde pronounced with a solemnity usually reserved for government policy changes or world economic trends.

A full-page spread provided statistics to support Le Monde's thesis: "The trend towards a return to nature and simplicity, perceptible in several areas of consumer spending such as food and furniture, is now being reflected in tourism."

The number of tourists visiting the Alps maritimes region around the city of Nice fell to 7.8 million from 8.5 million in the last decade. Meanwhile, tourism to the western Brittany region has increased to 7.8 million from 6.8 million in the last three years.

Real estate prices in some Breton coastal villages are now reported to outstrip prices in the Frejus/Saint-Raphael area near Saint-Tropez, long the Mecca of France's jet set.

On the Riviera, the price of new apartments has fallen back to 1987

levels, according to estate agents.

A west coast trend is visible in advertising, on news stands and even in pop music. Fashionable ads this year tend to be set on rugged Breton cliffs or islands.

A glossy magazine, Cote Ouest, devoted to the architecture and lifestyle of the rich on the west coast, has built up a cult following in the last two years, rivaling its southern elder sister, Cote Sud, launched five years ago.

Publisher Elisabeth Lefebvre said Cote Ouest now outsells Cote Sud in the trend-setting Paris region.

And in the pop charts Breton music is back in vogue, thanks to the group Dan Ar Braz, after two decades in obscurity.

The group, whose instruments include the traditional Celtic harp and the bagpipes, was chosen to sing France's entry in the Eurovision Song Contest this year but finished a lowly 19th.

The black-and-white striped Breton flag is increasingly visible on regional produce in supermarkets.

There are many reasons for the shift in tastes, the extent of which should not be exaggerated — the south of France is still a magnet for tourists and not about to go out of business.

The cooler climate on the west coast is a relief in these days of global warming, when fear of skin cancer has made a deep suntan less "politically correct".

The over-development of many parts of the Riviera, often with little thought for the quality of buildings or of the air, has triggered a backlash.

"The Cote D'azur nowadays is like

Paris with a sea view but without the metro," Ecologist Regional Councillor Patrice Miran joked in an interview with Le Monde.

In the boom years of the 1980s, south-coast hoteliers and restaurant owners jacked up prices to levels which the recession of the 1990s made many holidaymakers reluctant or unable to pay.

Tired of being scalped on the coast and spending hours in traffic jams, some tourists first moved inland, overrunning the "quaint" Provencal villages depicted in British author Peter Mayle's best-selling A Year In Provence and its sequels.

Those villages soon suffered from an influx that spawned a rash of tacky souvenir shops and eateries.

The high-speed TGV train and improved roads have brought the west coast closer to Paris in travelling time.

The 1994 celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the World War II allied landings in Normandy helped boost tourism there.

The Atlantic coast, three times as long as France's Mediterranean shoreline, still offers hundreds of kilometres of relatively unspoiled beaches, cliffs and creeks, although the water can be frigid.

But the west too is starting to pay the price of success.

The scenic Ile De Re, joined to the mainland near La Rochelle by a bridge since the mid-1980s, now receives up to 180,000 tourists a year, more than 10 times its population.

Local politicians are campaigning to ban construction on the island, most of which is a protected nature reserve.

Japanese conservatives block change in marriage laws

By Makiko Tazaki
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — Fearing an erosion of traditional family values, Japan's conservative male lawmakers are doing their best to block an overhaul of marriage laws which has long been sought by Japanese women.

In February, an advisory panel to Justice Minister Ritsuko Nagao proposed revising the country's civil code for the first time in 50 years.

The proposed revisions would allow women to keep their maiden names after getting married while easing divorce laws and other regulations.

Related bills are supposed to be submitted to the current session of parliament. But with the session set to expire on June 19, time is running out.

"We have a problem with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)," said Yukio Edano, a lower-house deputy from the new party Sakigake.

The centrist party is the smallest in the ruling coalition which is dominated by the conservative LDP followed by the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Mr. Edano said his party had already approved the revision while the SDP was ready to do so at any time.

"But because the LDP has been unable to coordinate views between members, the cabinet cannot adopt the bills to be submitted to the parliament," he said. "We don't want them to keep on dragging their feet like this."

An estimated 10 per cent of the 316 LDP members of both houses of parliament are opposed to letting women keep their maiden names.

Leading the campaign is Masakuni Murakami, a 63-year-old LDP lawmaker from the upper house.

The practice of women taking their husbands' names is a "virginal Japanese tradition nurturing love," he says in a 26-page pamphlet published earlier this year.

"Advocates of change overlook the danger of separate surnames leading to the collapse of the family by cutting the bonds which unite it into one."

Mr. Murakami argues that the proposed revision puts "individualism" before "love" and therefore threatens to destroy the family, pointing to the United States and France.

"Half of the married couples in America get divorced," he says. "In France, one in three children are born out of wedlock."

Shinto religious groups are also pressuring the LDP.

In a meeting with about 70 LDP lawmakers in March, the Shinto Political Union argued that allowing spouses to keep separate surnames would "undermine the unity of the family and adversely affect Japanese culture."

Japan, like Switzerland and Austria, is among a minority of nations that require married couples to have the same surnames.

The current law, however, allows a choice between the wife taking the husband's name or the husband taking the wife's name. In about two per cent of marriages, the husband will take the name of his wife, usually in cases where the wife has no brothers and is anxious to keep the family name alive.

"I think those who oppose the revision don't realise that it's about expanding the option," said Chieko Kagabayashi, a 36-year-old translator.

"We are not forcing those people to have different names from their spouses. They can share names if they want to. We just want the right to keep our own names. It's a matter of expanding the scope of our options," she said.

Like many working women in Japan, she uses her husband's name for official business but maintains her maiden name for work.

If the new law is enacted, she plans to abandon her husband's name completely under a provision allowing spouses to change their names within a year of the legislation being passed.

The revisions to the civil code would also enable divorces after five years of separation even if one of the spouses objected. Under the current law, both spouses have to agree to a divorce except in cases where the spouse is divorcing a partner deemed responsible for the breakdown of the marriage.

The legislation would also remove the discrimination between legitimate and illegitimate children in inheritance cases while raising the minimum marriage age for women from 16 to 18 to match that for men.

Luxury suites

By Jean-Claude Elias

SPECIAL APPLICATIONS aside, most personal computing needs are ensured by four types of programmes. Indeed, apart from technical, dedicated software such as computer-aided drawing and design, software for medical applications and others. Mr. Everybody's requirements are the same everywhere. Whether at home or in the office environment, software developers have, through the years, come to a fairly good definition of what PC users want.

We have often referred in this column to the office suite — the winning "quartet" — made of a word processor, a spreadsheet, a database and a presentation graphics programme. They fulfill more than 90 per cent of people's needs, with the first two elements taking the lion's share. Running under Windows operating system that provides additional utilities such as modem communications (fax, E-mail), calendars, calculators and other useful tools, an office suite becomes an extremely efficient, pleasant to use operation centre for any PC aficionado.

A well designed suite does not only provide quality programmes. It makes them work well together. The good integration of the four above mentioned elements is essential to reach productivity. By offering menus that follow the same concept, a suite reduces the learning overhead and ensures homogeneity. Finally it also gives users the possibility to exchange data (files) with users of other suites.

Microsoft Office Suite has been the most popular till now. However, two other contenders are more than worth considering — Lotus Suite and Corel Suite. The first has been on the market for a while. Corel's has been recently introduced. Both Microsoft's competitors possess some



serious advantages. Lotus Organizer — one of the Lotus Suite elements — has been the most successful in its class. A sophisticated yet easy to use diary and planner. Organizer is a model of fine software design. Corel Suite benefits from the company's well-known graphics and award winning, ready to use Clipart Collection of drawings that covers a wide range of topics.

While each vendor has its own strong selling points, it would be hard to choose an overall winner, technically speaking. The choice remains a matter of personal taste. Microsoft's advantage is that all suites must work under its own Windows system.

Those particularly fond of Corel's graphics may opt for its suite. Those who need the best diary will probably choose Lotus. Those who have sworn absolute, eternal loyalty to Microsoft will accept nothing less than Microsoft Office Suite. Because user-creates files can be easily exchanged not only between different programmes within the same suite but also between different suites, all users will find the three suites pleasant, efficient, practical to use, and satisfying most of their computing needs.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

JOKES



** In the kingdom of blind men, the one-eye is king.
Al-awar fee mamlakatil-imyan sultan.

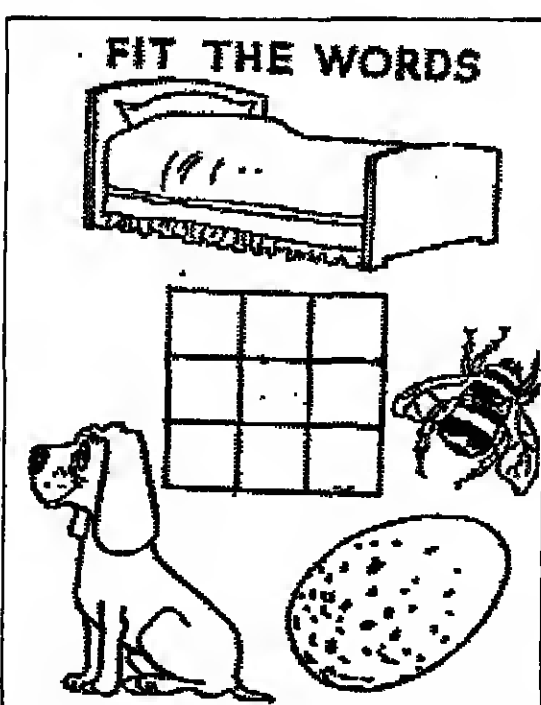
** Practise what you preach.
La tanha an kholoqin wa-ta'tee mithlahu.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) What is St. Elmo's fire?
- (2) What were called the Pillars of Hercules?
- (3) What is meant by Erse?
- (4) Who was the Egyptian sun god?
- (5) What is an okapi?
- (6) How are an alligator's eggs hatched?
- (7) What is a gnu?

PUZZLES

(A) FIT THE WORDS



Can you fit the words into the squares by using the names of the illustrations given here?
To get the correct answer, the letters in the horizontal squares in the middle should mean "self."

(B) LONDON & NEWCASTLE:

TWO trains start at the same time, one from London to Newcastle, and the other from Newcastle to London. They arrive at their destinations one hour and four hours, respectively, after passing one another. Compare the rates of the trains.

* DOCTOR: "You have only twenty minutes to live, do you want to see anyone?"
PATIENT: "Another doctor, please."

* CUSTOMER: "Waiter, I must say I don't like all these flies here in my soup."
WAITER: "Please show me the ones you don't like, sir, and I'll get rid of them for you."

TICKET EXAMINER: "Where's your ticket?"
TRAVELLER: "I think I've lost it."
TICKET EXAMINER: "Well, that's not a good excuse."
TRAVELLER: "All right. You suggest a better one."

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- ** Care and diligence bring luck.
Man jadda wajad.
- ** Where there is drink, there is danger.
Majalees al-khomoor mahfoofa bish-shuroor.
- ** Peace begins where ambition ends.
Yabda' ass-salam halthu tantahil atmaa.
- ** Who is bad to his own is bad to himself.
Man abana thaweehi faqad abana nafsahu.
- ** Add pence to pence for wealth comes hence.
Minal qatil yojma al-kathir.

A little bit more care

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



SOMETIMES WE try, even harder than we should, to get others to behave in ways that are more in line with the norms and rules that we ourselves live by. Other times, we try to get them to think in a manner that is contradictory to how they had been brought up to think.

Everytime we do this, and whenever we switch on the lecturing mode, someone, somewhere, is bound to jump into the discussion to claim that we who speak do not know, most of the time anyway, what we are talking about, and that we should not be talking in the first place.

For instance, we could be talking about anything from two people going out together because they enjoy each other's company, to high-school students writing a report on traffic problems on our roads recently and coming up with their own genre of awareness campaigns.

Because of this, it can be truly heart warming when one realises just how much more cultured and caring some of our young people are when it comes to the things that are enriching to human experience. Some, because there are quite a few out there wasting their lives away because of a misguided fascination with the absurdities of modern culture.

It was interesting to note that even though the students' field study revealed more problems than it did formulate solutions, they decided to keep working at trying to come up with their own brand of solutions. They felt a compelling need to strengthen the argument for making a change. A most commendable move. Something akin to the brave standing up to the wicked.

They were hoping that they could count on everybody's support, help, and willingness in order to bring on such a change. And because of this, some of their reports ended with an appeal made to each and every one of us to try to care a little bit more. To care for ourselves and for one another. To learn to appreciate one another and the chances that we have been given to make our lives, and our cities, a little bit better and safer.

Amidst all of this, one thing is certain. We cannot keep hiding under the banner of Arab hospitality, generosity, and good manners because these have to be examined in light of the facts and horrors of daily life. An example which comes to mind is that of the driver who races into a roundabout out of turn. For such a driver can neither be described as hospitable nor well mannered. We need a new motto. One that appeals to our state of mind today.

Can we at least begin to think about that? And can we begin to involve the younger generation in such a process? Or has its time not come yet?

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 6, 1996

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 3:00 | Aladdin | 5:15 | Family Programme — L'Ecole Des Fans |
| 3:30 | NBA | 6:00 | Thalassa |
| 4:30 | Pirates | 6:30 | 1996 European Championships: The Netherlands VS. Scotland (First Half) |
| 5:00 | News Flash | 7:10 | Le Journal |
| 5:01 | French Programme — Les Polluards | 7:30 | European Championship (2nd Half) |
| 5:30 | Varieties — Le Monde Est A Vous | 7:35 | The Nanny |
| 7:00 | Le Journal | 8:25 | Nippon — The Land And Its People |
| 7:15 | Magazine — Archimede | | Japan's Corporate System |
| 7:30 | News Headlines | 8:55 | Rock Around The World |
| 7:35 | Arabic Calligraphy | 9:20 | Daily Summary — Japan Week |
| 8:00 | Taratata | 9:30 | 1996 European Championships Romania VS. France (First Half) |
| 9:10 | Star Trek | | News In English |
| 10:00 | News In English | 10:15 | European Championship (2nd Half) |
| 10:25 | Feature Film — Between Love & Honour Starring: Grand Show & Maria Pitillo | 11:20 | The Bold And The Beautiful |
| 12:00 | My Two Wives | | |

Friday, June 7, 1996

| | | | |
|-------|--|------|---|
| 3:00 | Iris | | |
| 3:15 | Pebbles And Bamm Bamm | | |
| 3:40 | Bush School | | |
| 3:50 | See How They Grow | | |
| 4:00 | Gillette World Sport Special | 3:05 | Iris — The Happy Professor |
| 4:30 | Give Us A Clue | 3:20 | Captain Planet |
| 5:00 | News Flash | 3:45 | Hot Shots |
| 5:01 | French Programme — Les Polluards | 4:10 | The Bob Morrison Show |
| 5:30 | The Film Of 100 Years Of French Cinema | 4:35 | Alf |
| | Les Enfants De Lumiere | 5:00 | News Flash |
| 7:00 | Le Journal | 5:01 | Children's Programme — Ordy |
| 7:15 | Magazine — Allo La Terre | 5:15 | Documentary — Ia Vie Devant Moi |
| 7:30 | News Headlines | 5:30 | Game Show — Que Le Meilleur Gagne |
| 7:35 | Growing Pains | 6:00 | Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante |
| 8:00 | Nasty Boys | 6:30 | 1996 European Championships: Italy VS. Russia (First Half) |
| 8:45 | It Had To Be You | | Le Journal |
| 9:10 | The Hanging Gale | 7:15 | European Championship (2nd Half) |
| 10:00 | News In English | 7:30 | Blossom |
| 10:25 | Classic Movie — Show Boat Starring: Kathryn Grayson & Howard Keel | 8:25 | Milner-Fenwick |

Saturday, June 8, 1996

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 3:00 | Roland Garros/Ladies' Singles Final & Final | 9:10 | Star Trek |
| 8:30 | Men's Double Final Nippon — The Land And Its People | 10:00 | News In English |
| 8:55 | Japan's Technology | 10:25 | Daily Summary — Japan Week |
| 9:00 | Milner-Fenwick | 10:35 | Feature Film — The Face Of Fear Starring: Elizabeth Ashley & Ricardo Montalban |
| 9:15 | Alia Troupe In Folkloric Dances | | My Two Wives |
| 10:00 | Prism/Live | | |
| 10:25 | Domestic Violence | | |
| 10:35 | News In English | | |
| 11:10 | Daily Summary — Japan Week The Bold And The Beautiful | | |

Sunday, June 9, 1996

| | | | |
|-------|---|------|------------------------------------|
| 3:05 | The Mask | 3:00 | The Flintstones |
| 3:30 | Mac & Mutley | 3:30 | Dinosaurs |
| 4:00 | Roland Garros/Men's Singles Final | 3:55 | The New Three Stooges |
| 7:00 | 1996 European Championships: Germany VS. The Czech Republic (First Half) | 4:00 | Bill Nye, The Science Guy |
| 8:55 | The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air | 4:30 | Kelly |
| 9:20 | Daily Summary — Japan Week | 5:00 | News Flash |
| 9:30 | 1996 European Championships Denmark VS. Portugal (First Half) | 5:01 | Children's Programme — Le Chat |
| 10:00 | News In English | | Perche |
| 10:30 | European Championship (2nd Half) | 5:30 | Serie — Maigret Et La Vieille Dame |
| 11:20 | Counterstrike | 7:00 | Le Journal |

Monday, June 10, 1996

| | | | |
|------|------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 3:00 | Bonkers | 8:30 | Changer |
| 3:30 | Richie Rich | 9:10 | Hunter |
| 3:55 | Playabout | 10:00 | News In English |
| 4:05 | Animals Of The Mediterranean | 10:25 | Daily Summary — Japan Week |
| 4:35 | Bustin' Loose | 10:35 | The Bold And The Beautiful |
| 5:00 | News Flash | | Airwolf |
| 5:01 | Children's Programme — Ordy | | |

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mental stress is riskier to the heart than physical stress — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Mental stress is a greater risk than physical stress for people vulnerable to heart problems, according to a study published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Department of Medicine of Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina, said that patients can reduce the risk of future heart attacks by changing their response to mental stress.

"The observations that mental stress-induced ischemia predicts events over and above exercise-induced ischemia suggests that mental stress testing

might complement traditional exercise stress testing in select individuals," the report said.

Myocardial ischemia results from an obstruction of blood supply to the heart.

"An additional implication of the study is that modification of stress responses may serve to reduce the risk of future cardiac events, particularly in patients who exhibit mental stress-induced ischemia," the study said.

The researchers recommended that further research be conducted to determine the efficiency of stress management interventions for patients who show signs of ischemia induced by

mental stress.

Mental stress can increase the heart's demand for oxygen while at the same time reducing its oxygen supply, according to the study.

The researchers studied 126 outpatients with coronary artery disease (CAD) who over the past year also showed evidence of myocardial ischemia induced by physical exercise. The patients were given mental and exercise stress tests.

Patients with ischemia caused by mental stress were almost three times more likely of having a cardiac event or of dying than patients who did not show signs of stress-induced ischemia.

'Mirror onto the soul'

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

In his 1982 publication, *Universe with Man in Mind: the New Paradigm*, director of ecological physics at Cranfield Institute of Technology, UK-based Canadian Professor Glen Schaefer, remarks that "...nature is a kind of mirror. When we observe (it) with the least bias, we are seeing more and more clearly the nature of our minds, our own assumptions." This release was taken from an interview series three years earlier with artists, poets and scientists in the Christian Science Monitor's Home Forum page, entitled "Towards the Frontiers of Thought."

Born in Ein-Karim, Jerusalem, and residing in Jordan, artist Ahmad Nawash comments: "Art is inevitably a mirror of some sort, reflective not only of our thoughts, affections and aspirations, but acting as the ultimate medium of human expression. It is in art that the true honesty of the soul is most vividly manifest." This statement comes in 1996 — now — as part of a weekly art feature in the Jordan Times WEEKENDER. It would seem that the potential for concurrence by men of science and art alike is enormous, regarding the human need to exalt some element — whether it be nature or art — to the status of 'mirror onto the soul'.

Indeed, through his work, strongly evocative of a hypothetical Miro-Picasso hybrid art form, Ahmad Nawash, (a confirmed surrealist), commands the arresting attention of viewers to two fundamental elements: The predictability of the logical and the elusiveness of the abstract. His ability, (in a large number of his paintings) to galvanise the two dimensions into one uneasy coalition of shades, hues, and colours is arresting, to say the least. Integral to such an amalgam is the "dream-like" quality of his works, for like the dreamer, the viewer here is made to embark the alpha-beta-theta shuttle that shortly thereafter commences its multi-directional spiralling towards the torpidity of synaptic delta-wave patterns or the torridity of surrealist visual renditions. In either event, the effect is overwhelmingly nebular.

The pieces fall into two main categories: Portrayal of people in the context of certain sentiments and predicaments that may surround them at a given time, and portrayal of people and animals in the context of compositions, and near-geometric formations (also featuring people). One particular painting, entitled *A Family In Misery* depicts three large faces concentrically huddled up (with respect to themselves as well as with the expanse of the framed canvas). The effect alludes to a tight sense of solidarity despite the misery that has befallen this family. The whole work almost beckons to cry out something to the effect that "despite our misfortunes, at least we've still got each other." The theme is strongly suggestive of the plight of a typical Palestinian family enduring characteristic hardship.

Next, a portrait of a married couple, hand in hand (albeit in a very reserved way) is hauntingly reminiscent of Jan Van Eyck's *Giovanni Arnolfini* and [his wife], *Giovanna Cenami*, 1434. Indeed, the latter is described as representative of Van Eyck's pursuit of flawless reality and his dispassionate recording (of a married couple). Ahmad Nawash's rendition is surrealistic, while the former is of the artistic style known as Realism. What the two lack in terms



A Family In Misery by Ahmad Nawash

of similarity in style is overshadowed by the similitude in the generated atmosphere.

Three closely-gathered people make up another painting with misery as its focus; it is entitled *Persons With A Problem*. Deceiving the viewer before closer inspection, the faces reveal knit brows and portentous scowls. Paradoxically, the people are seen to be standing with such an elegant gait and erect bearing that they resemble the traditionally cheerful, tall and dignified Luanu Valley tribesmen of Zambia.

A painting hard to forget is one featuring a stone-faced woman making pretences at being a model, and pointing to two supposed colleagues of the same profession in the background. What instantly captivates the viewer here is the woman's face. Its closest approximation would be the recently discovered Ice Maidens Of Peru; once lively teenage Peruvian girls that were sacrificed to pagan gods over 500 years ago and shockingly well-preserved in the constant mountain-top snow ever since. Their gaunt, sinister-expressionless faces are ghoulishly similar to that of the fashion-model.

There is plenty besides Ahmad Nawash's modern style that indicates just how abreast he is of current events. One painting is labelled *Mad Cow Disease*. The concept is relayed to the viewer via an anguished face (and with good reason) as a result of being relegated to the creature's rear end. Indeed, wherever human faces adorn animal bodies in the artist's works, it is "indicative of the animalistic tendency of people at times, and this is conversely true as

well" explains Mr. Nawash.

The 27 paintings constituting Mr. Nawash's current exhibition represent a stylistic departure — rather, a stylistic evolution — from his 1993 collection. Imbued with, frankly, quite beautiful "add-ons" like multiple miniature triangles and circles (No! This is not Cubism), the current range may not appeal as much to the absolute art-purist who had grown used to the aesthetic virginity of the older range. This is not to say that visual delectability and intellectual purposefulness have by any means diminished or been lost along the way (each painting still tells a tale), but simply that the relatively sedate former style has metamorphosed into a more "busy" one.

Both styles excite the viewer's (artistic) sensibilities: they just act on different sensory parts of one's cranial lobes. It really becomes an issue of personal taste. If anything, credit is warranted for this artist who has been able, so successfully, to reinvent his work and consequently "freshen it up." The cool colour-range formerly used has likewise undergone a change for the darker, cosier (and charmingly-murkier). Pastel shades reminiscent of contemporary French artists like Degas have given way to defiantly-bold ones of the Mexican and Latin American reservoir of colours, such as those that predominate in the works of artists like Diego Rivera.

Accordingly, vis-a-vis the main subject-matter, cerulean blue has bowed to French ultramarine; cadmium orange to burnt sienna brown; sap green to thalo green. Near-new colour introductions include oxblood, mauve, crimson and every conceivable derivative or blend thereof. The once all-too-familiar staple anemic turquoise used for background filling (in the context of Mr. Nawash's surrealist works) has likewise failed to elude the artist's freshening-up initiative. To a large extent, indigo and mauve derivatives have replaced it. Nothing in the old colour-range was considered sufficiently noble to oblige to retain unaltered. Nothing — save, of course — the artist's evidently all-time favourite colour, "human beige" (or, less personally and more artistically, "buttermilk-magolia").

The artist's new order has ushered in colours so rich in pigment, so intricate in their mutual-interjection in the formation of the backgrounds, that virtually each painting possesses the necessary hues for a comprehensive colour-compendium. The backgrounds are artworks unto themselves; one can literally scrub out or sand-blast the main subject-matter from a good number of the paintings, and the backgrounds would still be able to carry the day and feign ample originality.

Yet with all shades of blue predominating in the works (some of it suggestive of the influence of Picasso's blue period), it becomes interesting to examine the findings of art-authors and colour experts, Augustine Hope and Margaret Welch. They claim that "If asked, 'what is your favourite colour?', half [of the respondents] would probably respond, 'blue.' Polls taken after World War II have regularly shown that over half the adults questioned — in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe — claim that their favourite colour is blue. Green comes next then white and red, while the other colours lag far behind." Is it a coincidence, then, that the sky is blue and foliage is green? Is it a question of cause or effect? Philosophy and

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART



The Fashion by Ahmad Nawash

psychology are better suited to tackle these issues than art. The study adds that "social status and profession have little influence on colour choice. The only pertinent difference depends on age: The very young like warm colours, adults like cool ones." In opting for warmer colours en masse, could it be that Mr. Nawash is growing "younger at heart"? That remains a riddle, but with a (spring) exhibition as splendid as this, he would certainly have every reason to feel that way.

The artist's former Italian professor, Mariuo Mazzacurati, described the then-young art apprentice, Ahmad Nawash, as a person who "does not look for visible poetic forms, yet his objective is to attain the limits where eyesight is diverted to invisible effects." One may plausibly detect a strain of universality in Professor Mazzacurati's observation as evidenced in the remarkable parallel disclosure of Louis Pasteur: "I see everywhere in the world the inevitable expression of the concept of infinity." This takes us back to the theme suggested at the start of this article, regarding the "enormous potential for concurrence by men of science and art alike vis-a-vis the human need to exalt some element — be it nature or art — to the status of mirror onto the soul."

Finally, if all these issues seem confusing, then that's because they are. According to A. Erwhon, "art can't be learned in the workshop of those who are winning their bread by it."

The exhibition is hosted by the Jordanian Plastic Arts Association in Jabal Luweibdeh and will run for a month. It was opened by H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali on May 27, 1996.

Liza Minnelli cannot go 'gently' into that good interview

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Liza Minnelli cannot go "gently" into that good night. Instead, she must rage — rage against the dying of the journalistic light.

Tahloid whispers about her health and erratic behavior have made it into the mainstream press. So that's what she finds herself having to talk about as she tries to mount a publicity campaign for her latest recording, *Gently*.

She was curled up in a cushy leather armchair at Sony's Studios where she was recording her thoughts on Mikhail Baryshnikov on Broadway for an upcoming ABC-TV special on great moments on television. A stubborn cowlick stood ramrod straight atop her head.

"Oh, this is going to look great," she said with a flashing laugh, finally calling over an assistant to spray it down.

Her album is the arc of a romantic life, featuring standards with a few surprises. There's a duet with Donna Summer on the torch song *Does He Love You?* and a turn with Johnny Mathis on his classic ballad, *Chances Are*. Herbie Hancock plays keyboards on *In The Wee Small Hours*.

Minnelli says she tried to do the album "with dignity and elegance, and then the National Enquirer comes along."

"I haven't read anything, but people have said that it was very mean. And destructive."

The story does seem a bit too irresistible to gossip-mongers.

Call it "Judy Garland redux."

They suggest that Minnelli is hurtling headlong toward the fate of her mother, the legendary singer who died of an accidental drug overdose at age 49.

There's just one problem with such a par and predictable story, says the 50-year-old Minnelli, whose father was Academy Award-winning director Vicente Minnelli: It's not true.

"Completely. From the get-go."

It's true, though, that up close and personal your eyes see a very tired Liza. She chain-eats bite-sized candy bars from the large jar in the hospitality room where she's talking.

And she makes herself so comfortable with a cozy wrap in the chair that she starts to nod off toward the end of the interview.

She explains that she's been working so hard — rehearsing until midnight — that she finds herself slipping into sleep sitting up.

It's further true that nearly 12 years ago she checked into the Betty Ford Clinic to detox from alcohol, a 20-year addiction to valium (originally prescribed for recurrent back problems) and what she called "party drugs."

But as for the gossip tales now, no one close to her has been quoted, she maintains, adding: "You have a friend, who has another friend, who has another friend, who one night goes out to dinner and happens to be talking about it when the waitress comes back, and that's the friend (who's quoted)."

"And then it's become Chinese whispers, which is like telephone."

"Just amazing. It makes me laugh so hard," she says, laughing, "because, oh my God. I never felt better in my life."

And it certainly hasn't been months since last she talked to half-sister, Lorna Luft. "Why would I not talk to my sister?"

Minnelli noted how it seems that, particularly since the O.J. Simpson trial, the tabloid newspaper *National Enquirer* can set the agenda for respectable papers such as *USA Today*, as it did in her case.

"It's funny, because then they say, 'well, let's clear this



Liza Minnelli

up." In order to clear something up, you have to bring up the negative. And then you just sound like you're defensive. I don't believe in it. It's not me."

Still, there's no denying that the thrice-married-and-divorced Minnelli has made headlines as much for her personal tribulations as for her career triumphs. She acknowledges that.

"So it doesn't bother me," she says. "What disturbs me is anybody who thinks it's slightly true ..."

Then she pauses, reflects, and says: "But how could they?"

There's also no denying that her career has been a roller-coaster ride, she allows.

She won three Tonys (the first when she was just 19), an Academy Award as best actress for 1972's *Cabaret*, an Emmy and two Golden Globes. She has sold out a three-week engagement at Carnegie Hall (in May 1987) and broken box-office records at Radio City Music Hall (in April 1991).

But as she points out, her signature songs, *Cabaret* and *New York, New York*, were made hits by others (Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra, respectively).

Even when she's not casting a high profile, however, she's still touring with concerts. And now comes the compact disc *Gently*, which marks a major departure for her.

The songs that typify her are "strong, unsentimental and relentlessly cheerful," she says in the liner notes. "The songs on this album, in truth, are much more what I'm really like: Sentimental, romantic and sometimes foolish."

So why did she hide that side of her?

"To tell you the truth, I thought nobody would like it. That's me, not that person I built up over there," she says, gesturing across the room. "I've kept me private for myself."

She calls this "my makeout album" and she says she made it "because I couldn't find any in the record store. Made me nuts."

Another thing that inspired her, she says, was listening in the car to Mathis' *Chances Are* and recalling, "oooh, I got my first kiss to that song."

But, ultimately, it was more than all that, she says.

"You know what it really was: I wanted to become — not 50 and faa-a-ahulous, kicking up my legs and doing all that kind of stuff to prove that you're not 50 — I wanted to become 50 and focused. And that's what I am."

After 40 years, TV's canned chuckles get the last laugh

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If you can't make them laugh, you can always fake them laughing.

Pre-recorded chuckles and applause — known as sweetening — have flavoured television programmes for four decades despite the sour taste it leaves in some mouths.

Comedians tend to shy away from the artificial approval. Viewers gripe about being overrun by fake guffaws. One producer, Jay Tarses, has tried banning laugh tracks from his series.

But nearly every comedy ever on TV — not to mention game shows, rock and comedy concerts and awards ceremonies including the Oscars and the Emmys — has been sweetened.

The few sitcoms that tried to go without tended to be short-lived.

Talk about the last laugh.

Laugh track pioneer Carroll Pratt contends that the entertainment industry has learned to judiciously use a process it once abused.

"It's not a dishonest profession anymore," Pratt said. "The need has been seen, and since it's become more con-

servative I think they're (critics) living with us OK."

Only news programmes, dramas and sports events are exempt from the wizardry of mirth, technicians who sit at small, putty-coloured consoles and use 12 buttons and three levers to coax audience tapes into a symphony of glee.

Titters, chuckles, belly laughs, cat-calls and more are part of the mix.

Pratt began working in the late 1950s with Charles Douglass, who invented a laugh machine while at the CBS Network, and has doctored shows ranging from *I Love Lucy* to *It's Garry Shandling's Show*.

It all started honourably enough, says the semi-retired Pratt.

Radio listeners were used to getting laughs with their programmes, the sound of studio audiences picked up by microphones.

Conventional wisdom also decreed that the communal laughter enjoyed by movie audiences was vital to making TV comedies work.

Originally, canned laughs were used to fill in when scenes were added or changed after an audience had viewed a show, Pratt said.

Later, a spate of series were filmed sans audience, like *The Donna Reed Show* and *Father Knows Best*, and required technicians to provide all the reaction.

Eventually, says Pratt, "It got out of control" as producers and writers pushed for bigger chuckles. The public began to rebel.

"The major complaint was we were laughing at things that weren't funny. Then we got letters saying we don't need some guy pushing a button to tell us when to laugh," he recalled.

The industry finally began practicing restraint — to an extent.

"In pilot seasons, things are over-laughed terribly," Pratt says, referring to the showcase period when producers try to sell shows to the networks.

There are other little attempts to cheat.

"Some producers bring in all of their underlings and writers and get close to an audience mike and yuck it up," he said. "It's had in one area because the writers, knowing the gag is coming, usually start laughing before it spills."

"You don't make a joke funny by laughing at it," Pratt said.

U.K. programme-makers cash in on channel growth

By Keith Weir
Reuters

LONDON — The makers of some of Britain's top television shows are cashing in on the huge appetite for programmes as the number of channels explodes across the globe.

Leading media companies such as Carlton Communications, Pearson and Granada are pumping up their production arms and raiding the archives to fill the extra capacity created by cable and satellite broadcasting.

"Our investment in television production reaped significant benefits with record programme sales, oew and repeat commissions from ITV and proposals for a range of programmes for cable and satellite channels," Carlton Chairman Michael Green said in a statement with the company's interim results last week.

Carlton, the largest of Britain's commercial television (ITV) companies, had programme sales of £72 million (\$111 million) in the six months to March 31.

Worldwide sales of drama shows such as *Soldier, Soldier* and *Inspector Morse* helped to offset flat advertising revenues as Carlton's interim profits surged to £143 million.

"Carlton is now one of the largest programme makers in the United Kingdom, with the expertise and resources to compete on a global scale," Mr. Green said.

Many share analysts had expected Carlton to make a headline-grabbing bid for either a rival ITV company or perhaps even a national newspaper group ahead of an expected easing of media ownership laws later this year.

But Mr. Green stressed the value of developing the company by less costly means, citing recent investments in new

television stations in France, India and Singapore and an entry into the British cable television sector.

Carlton and Pearson are partners in a new Indian satellite television venture. Pearson's television division includes British producer Thames and Grundy Worldwide, makers of top-rated Australian soap opera *Neighbours*.

"Our policy is to be a programme producer around the world," said Pearson Television spokesman Roy Addison. "We take strategic stakes in broadcasters where these enhance prospects for our production and distribution businesses."

Pearson has a 24 per cent stake in Britain's fifth terrestrial channel, which is due to launch next January. The company hopes to supply as much as £25 million of programming to the channel in its first year of operation.

Granada, which operates ITV franchises in London and northwest England, has teamed up with satellite broadcaster BSKYB to create a new outlet for its television business. The two companies have formed a joint venture to launch a family of eight satellite channels this autumn.

The main attraction will be the Granada Gold Plus Channel — offering vintage shows from an archive which includes every episode of *Coronation Street*, an evergreen soap opera which has been running for 35 years and still pulls top ratings.

The good news for the programme makers is that demand for their shows can only increase as channels multiply worldwide thanks to the extra capacity created by digital technology.

Worried about your weight — join the crowd

By Tracey Ober
Reuter

MADRID — "Well, I really shouldn't," goes the weight watcher's familiar mantra before guiltily accepting an offer of fattening food. "But maybe just this once."

Ridiculed in public and called names like "tubby" and "fatso," overweight people suffer countless humiliations in daily life and can develop a deep sense of shame in a society that glorifies slenderness.

Despite the stigma, their numbers are ballooning, causing concern in medical circles where experts on nutrition are worried about the associated health risks of this modern plague.

Doctors meeting at an international congress in Barcelona recently said obesity, with its often fatal complications, had become epidemic and could become a worldwide health disaster if not taken seriously and treated like a

chronic disease.

"Obesity is doubling every five years so we have an epidemic that is coming at the health service like a tidal wave," said Dr. Philip James, a Scottish authority on nutrition and chairman of an international task force on obesity.

The task force, backed by the World Health Organisation, wants to reverse society's bias against fat people and get obesity to be seen as a medical rather than cosmetic problem.

"We have to fight against the cult of slenderness and the condemnation of fat people," says the task force's Professor Bernard Guy-Grand of France. "There is an over-emphasis on how you are shaped and it has aggravated the already serious problem."

Obesity is a disorder of energy balance which happens when a person's energy intake exceeds their energy expenditure and the excess is stored as fat.

Doctors classify a person as over-

weight if their body mass index (weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared) is 25 or higher, and obese if their index exceeds 30.

Overly corpulent people do not, generally, live as long as thinner people and they are more likely to develop chronic or fatal diseases such as strokes, heart disease or diabetes.

The dawn of a technological and information age in more developed countries has removed much of the need for people to move around and it is increasingly easy to put on weight.

Experts say the human brain has not been able to adapt to the new idleness and we continue to eat the same amount of food that we did in more active times early in the century.

"The fat intake is down in the U.K. and the U.S. but obesity is going up. People expend less energy walking, doing personal chores, at the office," Professor Claude Bouchard, a Canadian expert on obesity and genet-

ics, told Reuters.

"We don't seem comfortable eating less and this is scary."

He said studies had shown that people today expend several hundred calories fewer on average but were unable to stick to a restrictive diet over the long-term.

To compensate for this built-in tendency toward flabbiness, he thinks modern society should be more active, walking 30 minutes to and from work every day for example.

The key to a slimmer society is awareness, the experts say.

Men, in particular, are at risk with their tendency to develop a paunch in middle age, which is a more dangerous kind of fat distribution than the pear shape common among women.

Men are also less likely to worry about their figure and therefore less likely to try to slim down.

"If we can persuade men that it's a health risk, we'll be more able to per-

sue them to seek treatment," says task force member Xavier Pi-Sunyer, a U.S. authority on obesity.

But finding a way to lose weight can be a frustrating experience amid the myriad of quick fix promises, miracle pills and "revolutionary" exercise machines in the commercial market.

Doctors also may not provide much comfort.

Diet and nutrition were considered the poor cousins of medical studies until recently and obesity was thought to be mainly a psychological problem.

The medical community slowly changed its attitude over the past decade as it became clear that obesity was increasingly prevalent and at the root of other health problems.

As their numbers grow, fat people have formed advocacy groups to help sufferers cope with practical matters such as finding flattering clothes, an oversized chair or an extra strong bicycle.

They also provide moral support and information about where to seek help.

"Society is so unfair to fat people," says Briton Bar Hewlett of Eurobesitas, a European organisation aimed at information sharing for the obese.

"People with a weight problem are desperate and they don't know where to go."

Studies have shown that obese people have a lower self-image than those with amputations, blindness or chronic pain.

Their physical discomforts are very real, however, and they may go to the doctor complaining of tiredness, sleep problems, sweating, breathlessness, low back pain and angina.

"These patients who are almost half our population need to be treated for the root cause, which is obesity," says Dr. Michael Lean of Scotland. "There's a rising awareness of the enormous costs. It has to be considered a chronic disease."

Vaccines from plants promise pain-free protection

By Neil Winton
Reuter

LONDON (R) — Genetically-engineered bananas may spare children of the 21st century the dreaded vaccination needle.

Scientists have high hopes that plants can be genetically changed to grow cheap vaccines, leading to the use of fruit for painless and plentiful protection against disease.

Not for the next century's children the bland assurances about a routine visit to the doctor being nothing to worry about, followed by the jab, pain and unrestrained howling.

Vaccinations would be delivered by eating bananas, apples or yams which have been genetically engineered to deliver a range of protection against familiar childhood diseases.

"My vision is to have a baby-food jar containing a transgenic banana that will protect against several infections," said Charles Arntzen of Cornell University's Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, in a recent article.

The goal of producing vaccines from plants promises cheap, plentiful protection from traditional developing world killers like bacterial diarrhoea and cholera.

The trouble with visions is they turn bright in the minds of the prophets but remain obstinately out of reach to the public.

But Axis Genetics Ltd. of Cambridge, England, says it is making progress towards vaccines from plants.

"The genetic engineering of plant viruses is likely to result in a wide range of human and veterinary health care products in the next decade," Iain Cubitt, Axis chief executive told Reuters.

Axis Genetics is growing plants to test the theory and work towards production.

"We engineer the virus in the laboratory and put it in the plant, on one leaf. This multiplies and spreads throughout the plant as it grows. The virus is designed to dominate the plant without killing it," Mr. Cubitt said.

"We've latched on to a highly efficient method of production. Other methods, where you engineer the plant itself, make it much more difficult to extract the virus. With our

method you harvest the leaves, grind them up, separate them. You get a yield of two grammes per kilogramme. That's a lot," Mr. Cubitt said.

Axis says it is making progress towards producing a vaccine against common diseases in cats and dogs, and foot and mouth disease in cattle. Drugs for animals demand a less stringent regulatory regime and present a quicker route to market.

The company is also working on AIDS, malaria, measles, hepatitis B and flu vaccines, and ways to combat fungal infections and the treatment of colon cancer.

"In three to four years we could have a veterinary product, but for humans, there's three to five years of development, and perhaps two years of regulatory action. We're looking at eight years realistically for human use," Mr. Cubitt said.

Until about 50 years ago, most medicines and drugs came from plants. Chemistry was harnessed and now most new drugs are produced in pharmaceutical laboratories.

Genetic engineering has raised the prospect of reverting to the plant world. Experts believe this can lead to cheaper vaccines than the cultured animal or yeast cells now used.

Despite the cheerleading of firms like Axis, problems loom.

"You have to purify the particular protein you want to extract from the plant. I suspect this has been slightly glossed over, it's not a trivial matter," said Dr. Julian Burke.

Dr. Burke, reader in biochemistry at Sussex University near Brighton, said genetic engineers have to demonstrate that they can control the power of the vaccine produced.

If the strength of the particular vaccine is not consistent, it might produce an allergic reaction or make recipients sensitive to the virus the vaccine seeks to defend against.

However Dr. Burke is hopeful problems can be overcome.

"The golden scenario is that we produce vaccines in fruits like apples or yams, which (developing country) locals could then eat. That's theoretically possible," Dr. Burke said.

Researchers find potential new way to treat obesity

By Andrea Orr
Reuter

SAN DIEGO — The ultimate "diet pill" may be years away, but scientists from Ligand Pharmaceuticals and the Institute Pasteur Del Lile in France say they have discovered a DNA sequence associated with human obesity.

They say it could help them develop new drugs to regulate metabolism and weight.

Their findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, suggest that the human body could be made to produce more of the gene, leptin, that controls food intake and metabolism.

Ligand said it is hopeful its findings could eventually lead to a simpler, orally-administered drug that would increase the body's leptin level.

Dr. Dave Robertson, Ligand's vice-president of discovery research, said that research is still preliminary and it could take years before the new findings "are reduced to practice." He said Ligand might seek a business collaboration in the meantime to help it fund its research.

Since the leptin obesity gene was discovered in 1994, most research has centred on finding ways to administer it directly to obese humans. The new findings relate to the DNA sequence, or the promoter region of the leptin gene, that causes cells to produce more leptin naturally.

Although several drugs already on the market help to con-

trol weight through appetite suppression, the discovery of leptin was seen as a breakthrough because of its role in controlling metabolism. Researchers say differing leptin levels may explain why two people can overeat while only one gains weight.

"The availability of the promoter provides us and researchers at Ligand with a good tool to identify novel therapeutic approaches," Dr. Bart Staels, a specialist in gene expression at the Pasteur Institute, said in a statement.

Ligand, a San Diego-based biotechnology company, has obtained exclusive rights to commercial applications for the leptin promoter region, and said it submitted an application to the U.S. Patent Office covering that and related inventions.

Since the leptin gene was discovered at Rockefeller University, most research has been conducted by Amgen Inc., a Thousand Oaks, California company that last year purchased exclusive licensing rights to the gene for \$90 million. Amgen's tests administering the gene to laboratory mice and larger animals have been shown to result in weight loss, and it recently announced it was beginning clinical trials in humans.

Dr. Robertson said any work on the gene's receptor region would not interfere with Amgen's exclusive license for the gene itself.

Amgen was not immediately available for comment.

Chinese city tackles worsening alcoholism

By Tiffany Bown
Agence France Presse

HARBIN, China (AFP) — Every evening after work Wang Ying drifts from restaurants to karaoke bars in China's northeastern city of Harbin, getting blind drunk with his friends on beer and hard liquor.

The successful young businessman is among tens of millions of Chinese for whom excessive alcohol consumption has become a daily ritual under the economic reforms of the past 16 years.

But he, like most fellow citizens, remains largely ignorant of the dangers of his habit.

"There's a serious lack of understanding of alcoholic dependency in China," said Doctor Zhang Zongpei.

He is one of a group of doctors in this hard-drinking capital of Heilongjiang province that is trying to tackle the problem by setting up the country's first "giving up alcohol club."

The club, established under the Harbin Psychiatric Hospital in July 1993, is loosely modelled on Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). It shares the U.S.-founded group's objective of helping sufferers kick their habit through mutual support and counselling.

In addition to running the club, Dr. Zhang's hospital is one of a handful in China to reserve a ward especially for treating alcoholism.

Some 300 people, almost exclusively men, have been treated since the ward and club were established, spending up to three months in hospital receiving help from Chinese and Western medicine, plus psychological counselling and club meetings at which they exchange stories of addiction.

However, the social stigma attached to psychiatric illnesses, along with the lack of awareness that they have a recognised problem for which treatment is available, prevents most Chinese alcoholics from seeking help.

"It's a cultural problem. Because it's regarded as a disgrace, people only come to us if their lives have become intolerable, once their wives have walked out on them and they're no longer able to work," said Dr. Zhang.

The same social concerns prevent former patients from continuing to attend the club's two-weekly meetings for more than about six months after their discharge from hospital.

"Once they're back at work and regard themselves as cured they don't want people to think they have this problem any more. It's a matter of saving face — that's much more important here than in the West," he said.

The doctor acknowledged that such cultural obstacles and the fledgling state of China's alcoholism treatment resulted in a high relapse rate, with up to one half of patients soon reverting to their old habits.

A 1992 survey of 44,920 people, carried out in nine cities, found that 1,674 or 3.72 per cent were alcoholics, with the problem worst among male labourers in their fifties.

In Heilongjiang, alcoholism is particularly widespread for several reasons, including its icy winter temperatures, its proximity to Russia — from where locals have gained a fondness for fiery liquor — and its large ethnic Korean community, among whom dependency rates are high.

Growing unemployment caused by difficulties in the heavy industrial province's state industries and the large number of workers in the resource-rich region's numerous isolated mines and forestry projects also contribute to the problem.

Many upwardly mobile urban citizens, like Wang Ying, simply drink too much because it has become the social norm under China's economic reforms.

"Drinking alcohol is just a custom here. It's not like the English people's drinking tea — that has to be drunk at a set time. Here alcohol is drunk at all social occasions at any time of day," said Mr. Wang, downing round after round of "Erguotou" liquor in a local karaoke club.

About 178,000 of Harbin's some four million people suf-

fer from chronic alcohol poisoning, the China Women's News said recently, warning of "social alcohol poisoning" as rates of crime, unemployment, car accidents, divorce and illness are pushed up.

The newspaper suggested more should be done in China to heighten awareness and expand the social scope of support of alcoholics — now confined to psychiatric hospitals — and to impose restrictions on purchases of alcohol to minors and on drinking in public places.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) An electrical phenomenon that causes the tops of masts of ships at sea to glow.
- (2) An ancient name for the rocks, Calpe in Europe, or Gibraltar as we know it, and Abyla, or Ceuta, in Africa, marking the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.
- (3) The Irish and Gaelic languages.
- (4) Ra.
- (5) An African animal somewhat like a giraffe, but with a shorter neck.
- (6) By the sun's heat on the sand in which they are laid.
- (7) An ox-like African antelope with a long tail.

PUZZLES

(A) FIT THE WORDS:

B E D
E G O
E G G

(B) LONDON & NEWCASTLE:

SUPPOSE they meet at M after X hours. Then train from London does LM in X hours and MN in I hour, so that

ML X
— = —
ML 4

Similarly, from the Newcastle train,

ML X
— = —
ML 4

Multiplying these equations gives:

X² = 1 and X = 2

4

i.e. the trains met in 2 hours. Therefore, one takes 3 hours for the journey. The other takes 6. The rate of one is double that of the other.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

LITERATIM
By John Feneck

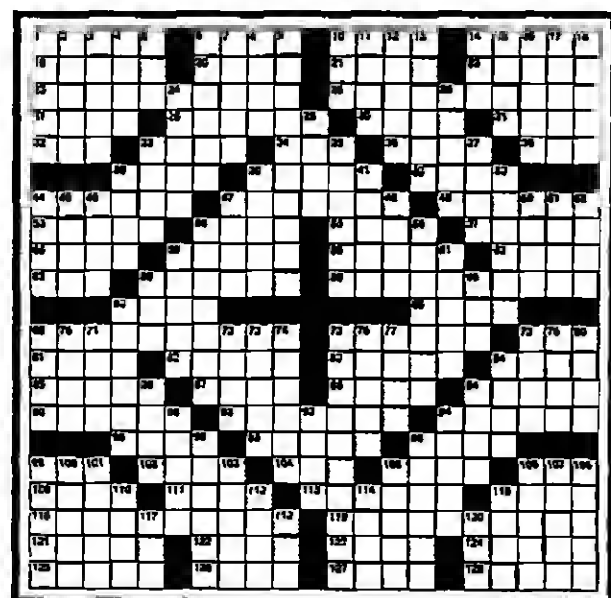
ACROSS

- 1 Turn pages
- 2 Chess-moves
- 3 Life
- 4 Musical composition
- 5 Train
- 6 Vocal separator
- 7 Antenna
- 8 Dressed flowers
- 9 Christmas carol
- 10 Cynical?
- 11 Blush
- 12 Chess
- 13 Get the soap out
- 14 Disagree
- 15 3-shaped
- 16 Sunday talk abt
- 17 Flatters
- 18 Lapidary bird
- 19 Early last
- 20 Go wrong

- 21 Down
- 22 Chess
- 23 War away
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- 25 Move
- 26 Part of a suit
- 27 Grow language
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Diagramless, 19x19
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- 1 Great scientist
- 2 The Heat of the Night
- 3 Magazine
- 4 Golfing-off period
- 5 Chastened
- 6 Admire
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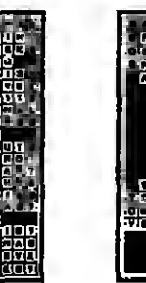
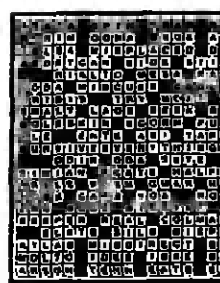
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



FOR RELEASE MAY 26, 1996

Aqaba summit stresses peace is irreversible

Continued from page 1

"The election campaign was like any election campaign. It involved many statements. But when someone becomes responsible, things change," he added.

Mr. Mubarak continued to say that he agreed with King Hussein and Mr. Arafat to "do our best ... to restore Arab unity, Arab solidarity, which is now very important."

Mr. Mubarak said the summit focused on "the difficulties that might arise on the path to peace and ways to tighten Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity."

He said he will meet with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Assad in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Friday to "discuss the issue of peace and Arab unity."

An Arab official was quoted by AFP as saying that the Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian summit would mark a starting point for moves to call a broader Arab summit. An official source told the Jordan Times that the summit would examine a possible gathering of 11 Arab countries, without naming them.

When faced with a question on such a prospect, Mr. Mubarak replied, "the day will come when we see such a possibility materialise."

Syrian President Hafez Assad said after meeting Mr. Mubarak in Cairo Monday that he was ready to take part in a summit grouping Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

But a Jordanian official, according to AFP, said the Syrian leader had set as a condition that Jordan and the Palestinians recognise that they had "made a mistake" in signing separate accords with Israel, making such a summit unlikely.

In an indication that Egypt is trying to achieve Jordanian-Syrian reconciliation, King Hussein referred

to Mr. Mubarak a question on the chances for mending fences with Syria, saying "ask President Mubarak."

Mr. Mubarak said Mr. Assad will not be against that "because he has enough experience."

The king said that on the personal level, his relation with Mr. Assad "has not been affected."

Mr. Mubarak also called as "ridiculous" a statement by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass in which he questioned the legitimacy of Jordan.

Many such statements are meant for internal consumption, said Mr. Mubarak who urged an end for such accusations.

King Hussein said he will meet with American President Bill Clinton next week in the U.S. to discuss the fate of the Arab-Israeli peace process. His Majesty is scheduled to leave for Washington Friday.

Asked if he was disturbed by Mr. Netanyahu's declarations that he would not meet with Mr. Arafat, the Palestinian leader replied: "No. No. No."

He said that despite the Likud Party's opposition to the Palestinians' quest for independence, "sooner or later, there will be a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

"It is the choice of the Palestinian people and nobody can oppose it," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Mubarak also predicted that "there will be a Palestinian state. History will prove that there will be a Palestinian state, whether people like it or not."

King Hussein added that Jordan will never be a "substitute." "If some people think that it is impossible to have a Palestinian state, it is even more impossible to have Jordan turn into a Palestinian state," said the king.

Aqaba summit statement

AQABA, Jordan (R) — Here is the full text of the statement issued after a summit meeting in the Jordanian port of Aqaba on Wednesday between Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority.

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate. As a complement to the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit which took place in Cairo last May 12, His Majesty King Hussein, His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak and His Excellency President Yasser Arafat met in the town of Aqaba on June 5, 1996, and emphasised reinforcing efforts to pursue the peace process, guaranteeing the commitment to implement all the agreements which have been signed in the context of it, the need to support and help the Palestinian side especially in its negotiations on final status and redoubling efforts to resume the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, to reach a real comprehensive peace based on respect for reciprocal rights and duties and the application of the principle of land in exchange for peace and resolutions 242 and 338, which the Madrid Conference stipulated and to which all parties committed themselves, for withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory.

The three leaders reviewed ways to support their Palestinian brothers in the final status negotiations, in order to enable them to reach an agreement which guarantees their legitimate national rights to their national territory and which confirms Palestinian, Arab, Islamic and Christian legal, historical and spiritual rights in relation to Arab Jerusalem.

The three leaders dealt with the results of the Israeli elections through an objective evaluation and call on the new Israeli government to continue in the peace process under the fundamentals and principles on which the Madrid Conference was based, affirming their conviction that peace is an irreversible strategic choice for all parties in the region.

The three leaders say that supreme Arab interests require that their meetings continue, that cooperation and coordination between them be supported, to strengthen the peace process, and to make efforts to expand the circle of meetings to bring about real Arab solidarity.

World marks Environment Day

NAIROBI (UNEP) —

World Environment Day was celebrated in more than 100 countries around the world on June 5, to focus global attention on environmental action and awareness.

Each year the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations body responsible for coordinating World Environment Day activities, chooses a theme and selects a city as the main venue for the international celebrations.

This year, the international celebrations commemorating the day will be held on Sunday, June 9, in Istanbul, Turkey, and will be hosted by UNEP and the government of Turkey with a full programme of activities, including a parade displaying environment-friendly products, photographic exhibitions on the environment, a fashion show of environment-friendly textile products and the presentation of UNEP's Global 500 awards of 21 environmentalists from around the world who have made outstanding contributions to

the protection of the environment.

The main event will be attended by the president and prime minister of Turkey, the chairman of the Turkish parliament, the country's minister of environment and UNEP's executive director.

World Environment Day (June 5), established by the General Assembly in 1972, is a people's event, with governments and communities organising clean-up campaigns, tree plantings, street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essay competitions in schools, recycling efforts and much more.

In a statement on the occasion, U.N. Secretary General Butros Ghali said: "The World Environment Day is an occasion to reflect on the state of our fragile environment. It is an observance that draws attention to some of the ominous ways in which humanity is imperilling its own habitation. It emphasises the urgency of changing our attitudes and behaviour, through responsible practices and actions."

The theme for this

year's World Environment Day is 'Our Earth, Our Habitat, Our Home.' As the world moves into the 21st century, it will mark the passing from an age when most of its population resided in rural areas to one in which most will be urban residents. Clearly, humankind's future will unfold in settings that are predominantly urban.

"Today, the explosive and continuing growth rates of urban areas have created some profound challenges for the sustainable management of these settlements. The blanket of smog that hangs over cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Delhi, Beijing and tens of thousands of smaller cities is a symbol of the many urgent problems that demand our attention — from unchecked emissions to inadequate sanitation, from chemical accidents to urban fires."

"As the pace of global integration accelerates, the lines that separate a city, a country, a region, and a continent will progressively blur. The future of our cities will determine more and more not

only the future of nations but also of the planet in its entirety. We ignored the issue of sustainable management of cities at our own peril. If cities are to continue to be the engines for economic growth as they have been throughout human history, their future development has to be based on considerations that are environmentally sustainable."

"Astronauts have seen how meaningless national boundaries can be in terms of the biosphere. We cannot allow these dividing lines to obscure our view of the one planet we share."

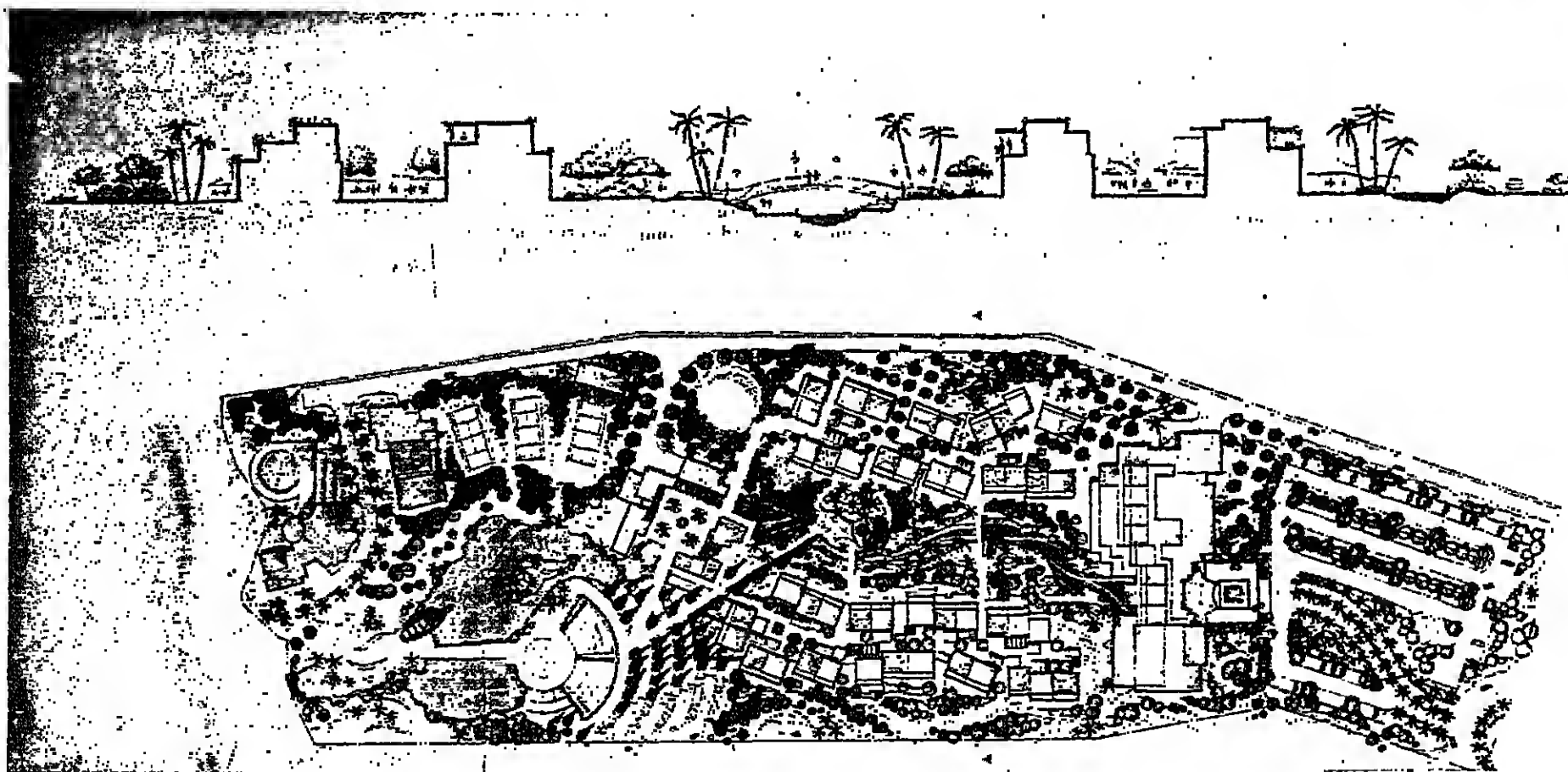
"The perception of the whole Earth as our home, as the integral place whose fortune and whose future is our own may be the essential first step to survival."

"World Environment Day is a call for conscience, and a call for action. On this day, let us enlighten ourselves, not only for the benefit of our own lives but also for the well-being of generations to come. The environmental crisis allows no time for delay. Action is needed now."

INVITATION

FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS TO BUILD THE

MÖVENPICK RESORT HOTEL - DEAD SEA



National Hotels & Tourism Co. Ltd.

hereby invites Jordanian contractors classified as General or First Class in building construction or electromechanical work and who are experienced in building hotels alone or in Joint Venture with International Contractors to present their pre-qualification documents for the construction of Mövenpick Resort Hotel - Dead Sea which will include but not be limited to:-

- 1- A complete description of the company profile and its staff.
- 2- The projects previously executed by the company and especially those of hotels and big building projects.
- 3- The names and qualifications of the technical staff members in the company.
- 4- The machines and equipment owned by the company.
- 5- Balance sheet for the last three years.
- 6- Any other pertinent information about the company.

The project will be located on the Dead Sea - Eastern coast (Zara Area) with a total construction area of (35000 m²). Please note that the project will be built in stages. First stage will

consist of the Hotel building, Guestrooms South Block and Guestrooms North Block with a total built up area of (24000 m²). The project will be tendered in two packages, qualified contractors for each package are requested to submit their qualifications accordingly:-

- First package will include structural works and finishes.
- Second package will include electromechanical works.

Interested contractors are requested to submit their pre - qualification documents and experience in the construction of hotels and big building projects not later than 8/7/1996 at the following address:-

National Hotels & Tourism Co. Ltd.
Amman - Jabal Amman - Third Circle
Insurance Building (A) - 5th Floor.
Tel. 646781 - 646782 - Fax 655543.
P.O.Box 5315 Amman (11183)-Jordan

الفندق ومباني الجناحين الشمالي والجنوبي لغرف النزلاء وبمساحة بناء إجمالية لهذه المرحلة قدرها (٢٤٠٠٠ م^٢). سيتم طرح عطاء المرحلة الأولى للمشروع على جزئين، فعلى المقاولين المؤهلين التقدم للتأهيل لكل جزء وحسب اختصاصهم:-

- الجزء الأول لأعمال الهيكل والتشطيبات.
- الجزء الثاني للأعمال الكهروميكانيكية.

يرجى من شركات المقاولات المهتمة في المشاركة بهذا التأهيل التقدم بعروضها معززة بالوثائق الثبوتية اللازمة التي تشير إلى خبرتها ومؤهلاتها في بناء الفنادق ومشاريع الأبنية الكبيرة وذلك في موعد أقصاه نهاية دوام يوم ١٦/٧/٩٦ وذلك إلى العنوان التالي:-

الشركة الوطنية للفنادق والسياحة
عمان - جبل عمان - الدور الثالث
عمارة التأمين (أ) - الطابق الخامس
هاتف: ٦٤٦٧٨٢ - ٦٤٦٧٨١
فاكس: ٦٥٥٥٤٣
ص ب ٥٣١٥ عمان (١١١٨٣) الأردن

تعلن الشركة الوطنية للفنادق والسياحة

عن رغبته في دعوة المقاولين الأردنيين المصنفين عام أو درجة أولى في مجال الأبنية أو في مجال الأعمال الكهروميكانيكية ويفضل من لهم خبرة في بناء الفنادق ومشاريع الأبنية الكبيرة منفردة أو متآلفين مع شركات عالمية لتقديم المعلومات والمؤهلات الخاصة بشركاتهم لتأهيلهم لبناء فندق ومنتجع موفيك-البحر الميت، على أن تشمل هذه المعلومات على سبيل المثال لا الحصر مايلي:-

- ١- وصف كامل عن الشركة والجهاز العامل فيها.
- ٢- المشاريع التي سبق وأن نفذتها الشركة وخاصة مشاريع الفنادق ومشاريع الأبنية الكبيرة.
- ٣- أسماء وخبرات ومدة خدمة الجهاز الفني العامل في الشركة.
- ٤- الآليات والمعدات التي تملكها الشركة.
- ٥- آخر ثلاث ميزانيات سنوية.
- ٦- أية معلومات أخرى عن الشركة وذلك من أجل تأهيلها لبناء فندق ومنتجع موفيك-البحر الميت والذي سيتم تنفيذه على الشاطئ الشرقي للبحر الميت - منطقة زارة وبمساحة بناء إجمالية (٣٥٠٠٠ م^٢).

هذا وسيتم بناء المشروع على مراحل مختلفة على أن تكون المرحلة الأولى من مبنى

Interfaith meeting ends

Continued from page 1

Nasserreddin Al Assad, President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Bai Foundation) said in his closing speech that this dialogue was one of the most successful Muslim-Christian encounters they organised.

He stressed that interfaith dialogues should contribute to the unification of Christian and Muslim societies.

"We should discuss issues that bring us together not those which separate us," he said.

At the end of the meeting, participants sent a cable to Prince Hassan expressing their gratitude and appreciation for his participation in the Muslim-Christian dialogue which they said has contributed to its success.

They also sent a cable of gratitude to His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomews I. They thanked the patriarch for his

support of their continuing series of Muslim-Christian dialogue.

The consultation on The Educational System in Islam and Christianity which was organised by the Royal Academy in cooperation with the Orthodox Centre in Chambsy, Switzerland, brought together more than 50 Muslim and Christian participants who included leading specialists and personalities from different countries.

The next Muslim-Christian consultation will be held in Istanbul in June 1997 on Perspectives of Cooperation and Participation Between Muslims and Christians on the Eve of the New Century.

It will focus on the principles and historical practices of cooperation and perspectives of cooperation at local, regional and international levels.

Netanyahu welcomes peace call

continued from page 1

The Labour Party of outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres recently dropped opposition to a Palestinian state from its platform, though Mr. Peres has said he preferred a co-federation between a Palestinian entity and Jordan in a final settlement.

In another gesture to his hardline supporters, Mr. Netanyahu on Wednesday sent a message to some 4,000 Jewish settlers who rallied in the West Bank town of Hebron to celebrate the Netanyahu victory.

In a statement read at the rally, Mr. Netanyahu urged the settlers to be "strong and brave" and said he was full of admiration for efforts to maintain a Jewish presence

in the city. Hebron is home to 400 settlers and 94,000 Palestinians.

Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation, will mark one of the first benchmarks of a Netanyahu government.

Mr. Peres had promised Mr. Arafat to pull Israeli troops out of most of Hebron this summer. As a candidate, Mr. Netanyahu said he would not honour such a promise and keep the soldiers in the city for at least three more years.

However, after the election, Mr. Netanyahu was noncommittal on the issue, and on Wednesday, senior aides were briefed on the planned Hebron redeployment by Israel's chief peace negotiator, Uri Savir.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 699634/684311

UNCTAD: Global foreign direct investment flows hit record \$325 billion last year

GENEVA (R) — Total overseas investment rose to an estimated record \$325 billion in 1995, a leap of 46 per cent over the previous year, a United Nations agency said Tuesday.

Emerging from slow growth and boosted by a new wave of cross-border mergers and acquisitions, foreign direct investment flows particularly rose on both sides of the Atlantic, it added.

In a statement, the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) issued the preliminary figures from its annual World Investment Report 1996, due to be published in July or August.

"Worldwide foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows increased by a phenomenal \$103 billion (46 per cent) between 1994 and 1995, to set a new record level of an estimated \$325 billion," the Geneva-based agency said.

"The United States led the

way, with record inflows of \$75 billion and record outflows of \$97 billion, according to preliminary estimates," it added.

UNCTAD said the unprecedented level of global FDI flows last year suggested "that the speed of globalisation of production by transnational corporations may be accelerating."

Total overseas investment was an estimated \$204 billion in 1994, after rising a mere six per cent. About \$80 billion went to developing countries that year.

In all, industrialised countries attracted \$216 billion in foreign investment in 1995.

Developing countries registered investment inflows estimated at \$97 billion, an all-time high. China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand won the lion's share of such investment.

The transition economies of central and eastern Europe

recorded inflows of \$12 billion, twice as much as the previous year and the highest-ever, according to UNCTAD. The Czech Republic, Hungary and the Russian Federation accounted for most.

In 1995, outflows from the United States and Germany more than doubled and in the case of Britain increased by a half of their 1994 value, according to UNCTAD.

"Behind this increase lay rising cross-border mergers and acquisitions that once again became large enough to determine the level, direction and composition of FDI flows," it said.

In addition to large-scale mergers and acquisitions in the pharmaceuticals, chemicals and financial services industries — which reflect consolidations — small and medium-sized enterprises also entered the mergers market, UNCTAD said.

"Unlike the previous mergers and acquisitions boom in the late 1980s when many mergers and acquisitions cases were financially motivated, the recent boom resulted rather from corporate strategies meant to enhance

core competencies of firms," the statement said.

The full report will provide extensive data on the regional and country breakdown of the investment flows and an analysis of underlying factors.

Netanyahu promises Israel a free and stable economy

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister-Elect Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to implement a free market economy in Israel, guaranteeing stability, lower inflation and continued growth.

Few in Israel doubt the Likud leader is a firm believer in the benefits of capitalism. But economists and political commentators say continuation of the peace process and a good finance minister are key to implementation of his credo.

"There is no doubt Netanyahu firmly believes in a free economy and non-government intervention," said Nehemia Strasser, economics editor of the daily Haaretz.

"But closing the gap between credo and performance depends on the choice of a right finance minister who will stand up to political pressure."

On May 29 Likud leader Netanyahu narrowly defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres, causing Tel Aviv shares to nose-dive nearly five per cent the day after the elections amid uncertainty over the future.

Mr. Netanyahu claimed the market by underlining his support of the peace process and declaring his intent to create an atmosphere of stability that leading to increased investment.

FOR SALE

Power Macintosh 6100/60
16 / 260 / CD / 256K cache
15" Apple Trinitron monitor
Arabic-English keyboard, mouse
Apple Powerbook 180
8 / 120 / int. fax modem
carry case
Call 659929

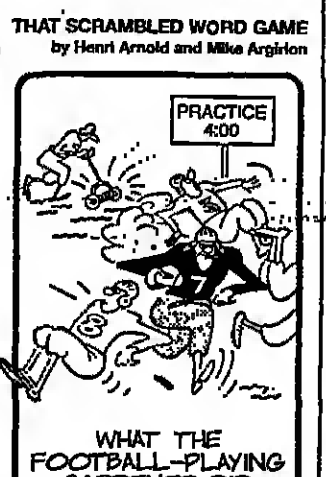
JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATHEW
WORNC
AMMAND
DOMECY

Answer here: EM

Yesterday's Jumbles: OPIUM LUSTY BOBBIN SYSTEM
Answer: What the couple considered their favorite spot in the park — A BUSS STOP



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try a new approach today at gaining some goal you have been working on for some time and get the right results. This evening will be good for you to spend time with close friends and your loved ones out on the town.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your family will go along with your ideas in the morning today, however avoid tension later in the day. Be the soul of diplomacy in dealing with a disagreement between your mate and a close friend as to avoid a huge confrontation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contact outside fellow associates in the morning today and get their views, however, later this evening you may find it difficult to put your own across, especially when dealing with a bigwig who does not desire to listen to anyone.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You understand how to make your career activities more profitable today, and then get them completed efficiently. Rely more on yourself when you have important projects ahead of you, however, you can ask for some assistance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the morning today to go after some long-time goal and you will finally reach it. Be silent about a personal desire tonight until a more appropriate moment and then you will be able to shout to the high heavens.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study how to make home life more harmonious today, and later this evening handle problematical affairs well so that you could diffuse a potentially aggravating situation between your mate and a close friend.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can make big headway today toward gaining your finest ambitions, so labour until you get the right results and as a result of your efforts you will get the recognition of those in authority which you desire.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get into civic activities which should be handled today, however, use care with them, especially later this evening. Through the efforts of fellow associates you can proceed on a new project until its completion very efficiently.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your intuition is helpful in the morning today, however, later this evening use your best judgement. Use information provided to you by a knowledgeable person wisely so that you will get high praise from some bigwig.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be encouraging in the morning today with your mate concerning some important matters, however, later show devotion to him or her in some tangible manner which will be very much appreciated in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A new contact can be of help to you in the morning today, however, later this evening use your own judgement and win out in the long run. A knowledgeable person will provide you with some vital career information you searched for.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make your surroundings more charming and operative in the morning today, and gain more harmony there with your loved ones. Later tonight you will be able to spend some fun time with a close friend and truly enjoy yourself.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasberger



"You made salad with fudge brownie croutons and chocolate milk dressing. Rough day?"

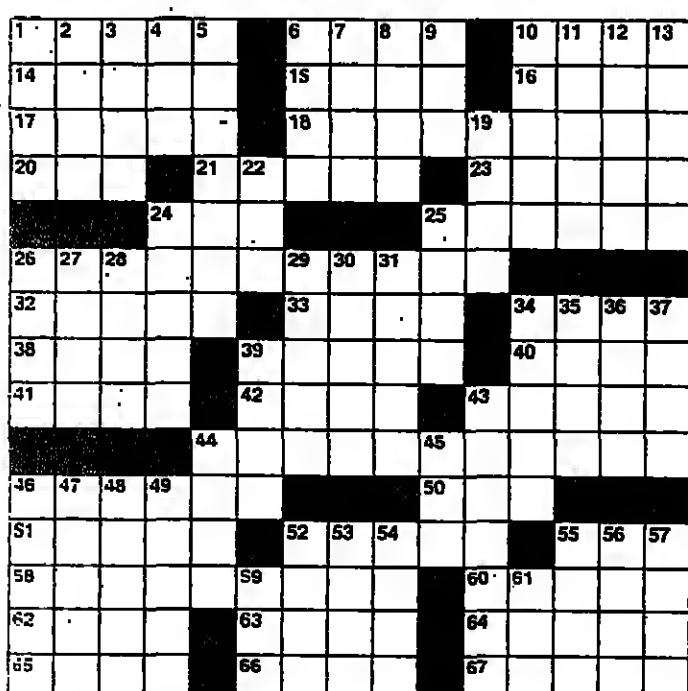
THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Muffled
- 6 Pitcher
- 10 Swabs the deck
- 14 Hole —
- 15 Mouri Tarawera outpouring
- 16 European capital
- 17 At the top of one's — (very loudly)
- 18 Cynical
- 20 A Carpel
- 21 Martin of Charlie
- 23 Incensed
- 24 — culpa
- 25 Be furious
- 26 Boundaries
- 32 Word processing command
- 33 Pleasant
- 34 Chew the fat
- 38 Manipulates
- 39 Relative by marriage
- 40 Nimbus
- 41 Post Teasdale
- 42 Auxiliary verb
- 43 Role for Dustin Hoffman
- 44 Adam
- 46 Societal divisions
- 50 Ballering device
- 51 Knight's wear
- 52 Long vehicles
- 55 Like two peas in a —
- 58 Health load
- 60 Mrs. Popeye
- 62 Ricki, of TV
- 63 Sis
- 64 Do, re, or mi
- 65 Inspected
- 66 Wife of Zeus
- 67 Extreme

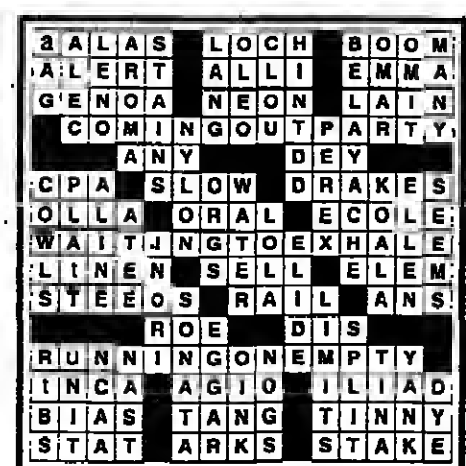
DOWN

- 1 Uns novel — 18"
- 2 E pluribus —
- 3 Danza or Berniell
- 4 Sch. study



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- 5 Sweet dish
- 6 Or —!
- 7 Get up
- 8 Uniform
- 9 Grammy Awards category
- 10 Watered silk
- 11 Movie award
- 12 Blue — special
- 13 Did a cobbling job
- 19 "Family —"
- 22 Actor Holbrook
- 24 Organization for geniuses
- 25 Fret
- 26 Musical work
- 27 — Major
- 28 Layer of seals
- 29 — sancum
- 30 Standish or Davis
- 31 — slop loving you...
- 34 Charisma
- 35 My — off to you!
- 36 In addition
- 37 Roger Rabbit, for example



- 39 Wading bird
- 43 Motives
- 44 Hanging plant
- 45 Golf club
- 46 Telegram
- 47 Display
- 48 Cigarette
- 49 Pulled
- 52 Not taped
- 53 Cake decorator
- 54 Tableland
- 55 Pockel bread
- 56 Concluded
- 57 Office furniture
- 59 Cheering word
- 61 Piece of real estate

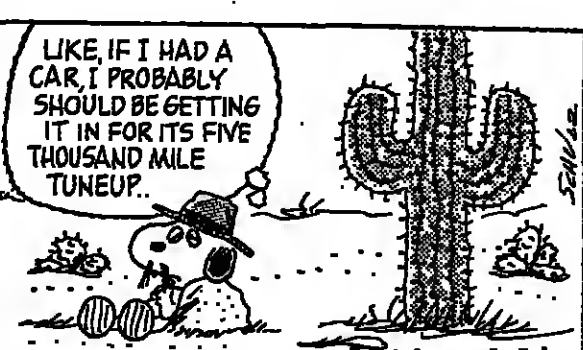
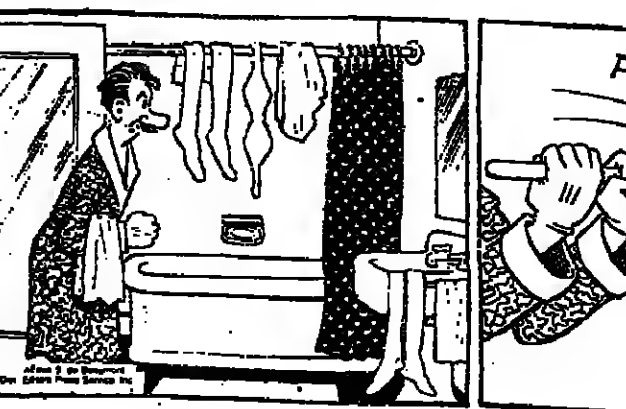
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are eager to get everything working properly under your own roof today so spend as much time as you can and get everything accomplished in an efficient manner and you will be recognised by those in authority.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Daytime hours today bring good luck in financial and property affairs, however, later tonight steer clear of a con artist who is out to take all of your hard earned assets and leave you high and dry for the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to handle financial affairs today so that you can have a reserve for times of emergency. Set up a good budget later this evening for the days ahead and stick to what you have decided to only spend on.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to improve conditions around you so that the days ahead will be rosier for you and your loved ones. Later this evening you can spend the time with your loved ones and make this very pleasant.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Experts can give you excellent advice during the day today, and then make a good plan for the days ahead. Later tonight plan to conclude any business deals since this will be the best time to proceed to other activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study various ways for gaining a vital interest and choose the one which seem most feasible. Tonight will be great for spending some time with your close friends on whatever activities are mutually agreed upon.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do whatever can gain you greater prestige during the daytime hours today, however, don't be forceful in the evening or you could find yourself in a great deal of difficulty, especially with your career activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have an opportunity to learn much which can help to you in the days ahead, so be alert to any possibility. Later this evening will be good for pursuing any career activities which can be quite successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A person in business can show you how to be more wise in your investments today, to listen carefully to every detail presented by this individual and you can gain the expertise to succeed in your career activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get together with a business person today and work on a new project which can be mutually profitable to all concerned. Later tonight spend this time with your loved ones and show appreciation for their caring.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some activities you have not handled lately should be made to work like a charm at this time. Avoid a meddler today who like to get into every situation and could cause you some difficulty with a bigwig.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan a good time for yourself and your mate early in the day today, and be romantic. Try to improve your health this evening so that you will be able to handle any situation which comes out at this time.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

Business & Finance

Arafat : I am dreaming of a Middle Eastern Singapore in Palestine

LONDON (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat urged British businessmen Tuesday to bring much-needed investment funds to the impoverished West Bank and Gaza.

Declaring that 27 years of Israeli occupation had left the infrastructure of the Palestinian territory utterly destroyed, Mr. Arafat told an audience of British business leaders: "We are starting

from below zero."

He added: "Our own business people have already started a programme of investment in Palestine. We would like to see you make contact with them."

"We need your help and support in all fields, we need to build the whole infrastructure — roads, schools, hospitals, telecommunications and sewage and power plants," Mr. Arafat urged the

businessmen.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip might need to build as many as 470,000 new homes, Mr. Arafat said.

The Palestinians had already been promised more than \$2 billion by international donors and an investment code had been promulgated.

"We believe in a free market economy, not con-

trolled and regulated by the state," Mr. Arafat said. "I am dreaming of a Middle Eastern Singapore in Palestine."

Mr. Arafat's host, British Trade Minister Lord Fraser, said that "unfortunately there is little evidence at present of U.K. involvement in major Palestinian projects".

Mr. Arafat was speaking on the final day of a two-day trip to Britain that has included a meeting with Prime

Asea Brown Boveri finds good business opportunities in Jordan

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — European-based energy giant in low, medium and high voltage technologies Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) last week received a letter of intent from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for a JD1 million communication project that includes supply of ancillary equipment and software. ABB communication manager Nabeela Herzalla told the Jordan Times.

According to ABB, the package is going to serve industrial purposes.

The international company world leader in electricity engineering, with over 6,000 offices in 126 countries and annual revenues for about \$30 billion, established a regional office in Jordan, covering eight neighbouring countries, in 1988.

Currently, ABB management office for the Middle East and North Africa in Amman has a controlling interest in three Jordanian companies: Near East Trading Company, ABB supplies agent world wide, a holding industrial company and ABB

Southern Development (ABBS), a joint venture with the Arab Potash Company and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company dealing with maintenance and services in industrial electrical equipment.

"Though ABB office opened eight years ago, it started expanding only in 1994, as a result of the peace process and newly achieved stability in Jordan," Ms. Herzalla said.

In 1995, ABB was awarded a tender for a \$145 million project for the construction of a thermal power station in Aqaba. It also won an \$11 million cogeneration project from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and a \$6 million transformer project with reactors for the interconnection with the Egyptian electricity network.

ABB says it is growing in the engineering field to serve the transmission and distribution as well as the generation sectors.

"We are also going for the assembly of electricity distribution equipment," Ms. Herzalla said, adding that ABB has already received a \$5 million order.

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Buses to run between Jordan and Israel from Sunday

Starting Sunday, June 9, 1996 public transport buses will start running between Jordan and Israel, Transport Minister Naser Lawzi has announced noting that this month is going to witness the implementation of many articles of the Jordanian-Israeli transport agreement and will highly be active in the transportation of goods, passengers and tourists between the two countries. According to Mr. Lawzi, six buses will depart from Jordan each day and another six will come from Israel. The six trips from Jordan will be divided into three from Amman, two from Irbid and one from Aqaba. The fare from Amman to Tel Aviv will be \$7 and from Amman to Nazareth \$6. Other fares will be as follows: Amman-Haifa \$6.5, Irbid-Nazareth \$4.5, Irbid-Haifa \$5 and Aqaba-Eilat \$1.5.

Trucks will be running between the two countries starting June 26, Mr. Lawzi said pointing out that, due to the large number of trucks, an area has been assigned on both sides of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge to unload the cargo and reloading it to the trucks of the other country.

The minister indicated that touristic boats will start operating trips between Aqaba and Eilat by the end of this month which will also be the time when Israel will start flying its aircraft to Jordan on a 5-flights per week schedule. Jordan's Royal Wings began flying to Israel last month. Private cars have been travelling between the two countries since April 28, 1996 (Al Dustour).

Farmers Federation wants government to hire its employees

The Farmers Federation at the Jordan Valley is seeking the help of the government to absorb a number of its employees as the Federation was unable to meet their demands for technical and specialty allowances. The Federation Board of directors said that due to extremely difficult financial straits that have brought the 1996 budget to its lowest levels, it was unable to create any spending outlets. As such, the board decided to ask the Cabinet to find employment to the Federation staff at various government institutions and to cancel the Farmers Federation of the Jordan Valley and consider it a branch of the proposed general grouping. The salaries of the Federation's 80 employees of whom 12 are agriculture engineers account for 78 per cent of the total budget which is estimated to be in the red by JD 235,000 this year. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance will not transfer the JD 500,000 allocation to the Federation in 1996 as it will take 50 per cent of the amount to settle the Federation's debts to various government credit agencies (Al Rai).

Competition heats up to develop Kuwait's first free zone

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Eight companies have been shortlisted to manage Kuwait's first free trade zone that will be established in Shuwaikh Port, ministry officials have said.

"The companies are now in the course of preparing the feasibility studies for the deadline on June 19," an adviser at the commerce and industry ministry said, who asked not to be named.

The free zone will offer tax-free investment opportunities mainly to reexport and light industrial companies, and will have to compete with growing free zones in other Gulf states, such as the United Arab Emirates and Iran.

The bidders, all Kuwaiti companies drawn from an original list of 26, must include in their studies proposals for marketing the zone to potential investors, details of any foreign firms involved as partners or advisers and a development plan.

A committee at the commerce and trade ministry will award the management contract by August, and the first companies in the free zone could be up and running within months, the adviser said.

"This is a new experiment to give responsibility to a private company," the adviser said, adding that the ministry would continue to coordinate the zone's development once the contract has been awarded.

Other free zones in the Gulf, such as Dubai's Jebel Ali and Iran's newly established zone on Qeshm Island, are government-run.

The zone in Shuwaikh aims to attract local, Arab and foreign investors involved in

reexport, repackaging and light manufacturing, which will enjoy tax-free status. They will only have to pay customs duties on goods brought into Kuwait from the free zone.

The port, which is on the eastern edge of Kuwait City, has a number of warehouses that can be used for the first investors setting up in the free zone, although the whole port area has been assigned to the zone's future development.

The zone has been on the drawing board since the 1960s, but parliament finally gave the go ahead for the scheme in June 1995.

| JORDANIAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--------------------|--|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| BOULEVARD BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/06/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PART 12 MONTHS HIGH | | PART 12 MONTHS LOW | | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF SHARES | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
| 250.000 | 205.000 | | | ARAB BANK | 12.1 | 1.42 | 7 | 140 | 31080 | 222.00 | 222.00 | - |
| 4.830 | 4.180 | | | JOR. AGRICULTURAL BK. | 13.2 | 3.20 | 4 | 11100 | 48526 | 4.40 | 4.37 | -0.03 |
| 4.740 | 4.180 | | | CHILCO BANK | 11.4 | 2.13 | 1 | 5000 | 23500 | 4.70 | 4.70 | - |
| 2.700 | 2.230 | | | INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK. | 5.1 | 0.21 | 1 | 1000 | 224 | 2.24 | 2.24 | - |
| 8.300 | 4.250 | | | THE MOUNTAIN BK. | 11.7 | 3.17 | 2 | 525 | 284 | 2.24 | 2.24 | - |
| 3.040 | 2.600 | | | JOR. KIWAT BANK | 30.0 | 0.00 | 3 | 125 | 346 | 2.76 | 2.76 | - |
| 1.470 | 1.300 | | | JOR. CUST. BANK | 5.8 | 0.00 | 25 | 38500 | 27424 | 0.98 | 0.97 | -0.01 |
| 4.280 | 3.300 | | | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK | 18.8 | 0.00 | 4 | 1250 | 4035 | 3.87 | 3.86 | -0.01 |
| 4.420 | 3.300 | | | JOR. INV. P.F. BANK | 19.3 | 0.00 | 3 | 458 | 1662 | 2.86 | 2.86 | - |
| 5.900 | 4.200 | | | RETAIL AL-BAL (MUTUAL) | 1.7 | 5.45 | 1 | 100 | 275 | 2.76 | 2.76 | - |
| 1.450 | 1.410 | | | ARAB BANK INTL. | 24.5 | 0.00 | 47 | 134000 | 67598 | 1.40 | 1.40 | - |
| 5.650 | 4.400 | | | ARAB BANKING CO. | 9 | 0.00 | 8 | 3000 | 3488 | 1.18 | 1.18 | - |
| 5.930 | 1.070 | | | PELLEGE INV. CO. | 9 | 0.00 | 8 | 3000 | 3488 | 1.18 | 1.18 | - |
| MARK SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | INDEX: 176.03 | | SCRS: -0.14 | | | 107 | 184658 | 202652 | | | |
| 8.910 | 2.300 | | | JOR. FINANCIAL INSUR. | 6.5 | 8.70 | 2 | 350 | 867 | 2.30 | 2.30 | - |
| 3.370 | 2.600 | | | JORDAN GULF INSUR. | 6.6 | 5.10 | 2 | 295 | 867 | 2.60 | 2.64 | -0.04 |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | INDEX: 123.98 | | SCRS: 0.00 | | | 2 | 545 | 1442 | | | |
| 1.930 | 1.530 | | | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 10.0 | 7.69 | 71 | 63666 | 98641 | 1.84 | 1.84 | - |
| 1.860 | 1.140 | | | IRIED ELECTRICITY | 2.0 | 7.25 | 3 | 323 | 453 | 1.26 | 1.26 | - |
| 2.860 | 2.420 | | | IRIED ELECTRICITY | 10.1 | 8.33 | 1 | 1000 | 2400 | 2.42 | 2.40 | -0.02 |
| 2.730 | 1.190 | | | IRIED ELECTRICITY | 9 | 0.00 | 8 | 1250 | 2989 | 1.33 | 1.33 | - |
| 1.180 | 0.900 | | | REAL ESTATE INV. | 20.4 | 3.46 | 2 | 750 | 690 | 0.95 | 0.92 | -0.03 |
| 2.460 | 1.790 | | | MID. EAST HOTELS | 89.6 | 0.00 | 1 | 1300 | 3120 | 2.02 | 2.08 | -0.06 |
| 3.660 | 3.080 | | | JOR. HONEYWELL | 12.8 | 6.25 | 2 | 1800 | 3468 | 3.26 | 3.15 | -0.11 |
| 1.510 | 0.980 | | | SARMA EDUCATION | 9 | 0.00 | 6 | 4450 | 14509 | 2.01 | 2.01 | - |
| 2.540 | 1.070 | | | UNIFIED CO. | 10.6 | 4.96 | 17 | 7250 | 14509 | 2.01 | 2.01 | - |
| 1.200 | 0.820 | | | UNION LAND DEV. | 8 | 0.00 | 7 | 10600 | 10640 | 1.01 | 1.01 | - |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | INDEX: 115.12 | | SCRS: -0.56 | | | 121 | 52797 | 143366 | | | |
| 33.080 | 18.990 | | | JOR. TOROCCO & CO. | 16.0 | 3.61 | 1 | 20 | 416 | 20.55 | 20.80 | -0.25 |
| 1.360 | 1.170 | | | HYPERMARKET | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 1050 | 1313 | 1.26 | 1.25 | -0.01 |
| 4.000 | 3.280 | | | JOR. GENERAL FACT. | 19.2 | 2.99 | 34 | 13978 | 52712 | 3.29 | 3.25 | -0.04 |
| 3.040 | 2.900 | | | JOR. PHARMACEUTICALS | 32.3 | 0.00 | 6 | 1125 | 3400 | 3.02 | 3.00 | -0.02 |
| 9.960 | 4.750 | | | ARAB POTASH CO. | 16.0 | 3.77 | 2 | 3000 | 15900 | 5.35 | 5.30 | -0.05 |
| 10.780 | 8.900 | | | JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY | 13.6 | 5.95 | 23 | 1798 | 18139 | 10.24 | 10.08 | -0.16 |
| 8.000 | 7.000 | | | JORDAN TRADING | 7.7 | 5.03 | 2 | 255 | 1609 | 7.20 | 7.15 | -0.05 |
| 8.000 | 7.100 | | | JOR. HONEYWELL | 9.1 | 5.52 | 2 | 1150 | 8167 | 7.20 | 7.10 | -0.10 |
| 5.780 | 3.480 | | | JOR. PHARM. MFG. | 18.7 | 5.87 | 31 | 6163 | 21232 | 3.49 | 3.41 | -0.08 |
| 2.660 | 2.000 | | | JOR. PIPES MANUFACT. | 11.6 | 8.40 | 2 | 350 | 1029 | 2.07 | 2.07 | - |
| 3.500 | 2.600 | | | GENERAL MINING | 7.1 | 10.51 | 6 | 2650 | 2788 | 2.70 | 2.75 | -0.05 |
| 2.590 | 1.620 | | | JARA INDUSTRIES | 8 | 0.00 | 2 | 600 | 825 | 1.70 | 1.65 | -0.05 |
| 6.280 | 4.400 | | | ARAB ALUM. IND. | 6.6 | 0.57 | 4 | 1300 | 5093 | 4.40 | 4.18 | -0.22 |
| 1.740 | 1.450 | | | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 9 | 0.00 | 45 | 62760 | 33990 | 0.53 | 0.55 | -0.02 |
| 1.600 | 1.200 | | | ARAB PAPER COM. P. | 8.0 | 0.78 | 13 | 6800 | 8082 | 1.20 | 1.18 | -0.02 |
| 2.930 | 1.250 | | | NATIONAL STEEL IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 650 | 1969 | 1.25 | 1.24 | -0.01 |
| 1.450 | 1.220 | | | NATIONAL TRNG. | 12.1 | 7.12 | 10 | 6060 | 4961 | 0.63 | 0.62 | -0.01 |
| 2.780 | 1.000 | | | JOR. ROCKWELL CHINA | 8 | 0.00 | 12 | 4300 | 5972 | 1.41 | 1.39 | -0.02 |
| 1.280 | 0.830 | | | JOR. ROCKWELL CHINA | 8 | 0.00 | 2 | 2000 | 3325 | 1.04 | 1.01 | -0.03 |
| 5.200 | 2.630 | | | ROYAL CARBIDE MFG. P. | 21.5 | 0.00 | 4 | 700 | 2482 | 3.55 | 3.53 | -0.02 |
| 1.780 | 0.950 | | | JOR. SULPHUR CHRM. | 9 | 0.00 | 6 | 2400 | 2400 | 1.02 | 1.00 | -0.02 |
| 2.510 | 1.080 | | | ARAB PHARM. CHRM. | 27.1 | 0.00 | 13 | 5550 | 8086 | 2.46 | 2.45 | -0.01 |
| 1.820 | 1.400 | | | RAJINDER INVEST. | 11.7 | 0.00 | 1 | 50 | 71 | 1.97 | 1.43 | -0.54 |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | INDEX: 112.64 | | SCRS: -0.49 | | | 520 | 167185 | 259075 | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | INDEX: 144.00 | | SCRS: -0.31 | | | 551 | 440105 | 603555 | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/06/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.860 | 0.610 | | | CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE | 24.9 | 0.00 | 4 | 850 | 527 | 0.69 | 0.62 | -0.07 |
| 0.980 | 0.700 | | | JOR. TRADE PNC. | 19.2 | 0.00 | 7 | 24150 | 17386 | 0.72 | 0.72 | - |
| 1.220 | 1.050 | | | SARA PWR INVESTMENT | 25.3 | 0.00 | 19 | 7800 | 966 | 1.61 | 1.58 | -0.03 |
| 1.000 | 0.760 | | | UNION INV. SGA | 75.5 | 0.00 | 15 | 18700 | 5511 | 0.61 | 0.60 | -0.01 |
| 1.530 | 0.830 | | | ARAB P.F. INVEST. | 9 | 0.00 | 10 | 6350 | 3811 | 0.76 | 0.76 | - |
| 1.690 | 0.360 | | | JOR. IND. MATCH JEMCO | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 2800 | 1690 | 0.68 | 0.68 | - |
| 1.140 | 0.630 | | | ARAB FOOD & MED. | 9 | 0.00 | 6 | 2750 | 4213 | 1.56 | 1.54 | -0.02 |
| 1.930 | 1.380 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 1180 | 725 | 0.63 | 0.63 | - |
| 1.200 | 0.600 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 9 | 0.00 | 16 | 11350 | 5959 | 0.76 | 0.76 | - |
| 1.100 | 0.700 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 9 | 0.00 | 33 | 28447 | 25611 | 0.91 | 0.90 | -0.01 |
| 1.160 | 0.800 | | | JORDAN STEEL | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 700 | 719 | 0.45 | 0.45 | - |
| 1.010 | 0.580 | | | ARAB ELECT. IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 600 | 267 | 0.88 | 0.87 | -0.01 |
| 1.030 | 0.670 | | | MIDWEST PHARM. 751 | 9 | 0.00 | 4 | 1000 | 960 | 1.23 | 1.21 | -0.02 |
| 1.880 | 1.100 | | | UNION TOROCCO 751 | 9 | 0.00 | 4 | 1800 | 703 | 0.72 | 0.72 | - |
| 1.010 | 0.680 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 9 | 0.00 | 16 | 6851 | 3184 | 0.87 | 0.87 | - |
| 0.970 | 0.570 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 35.1 | 0.00 | 15 | 5993 | 5309 | 0.90 | 0.89 | -0.01 |
| 1.520 | 0.880 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 450 | 243 | 0.54 | 0.54 | - |
| 1.050 | 0.450 | | | HAZEL. CHEMIST | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 1500 | 1500 | 0.70 | 0.69 | -0.01 |
| 1.020 | 0.660 | | | PEARL SAN. F. CONV. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 3350 | 36619 | 0.69 | 0.68 | -0.02 |
| 1.500 | 0.690 | | | MID. EAST COMPLEX | 8.0 | 0.00 | 40 | 176531 | 123359 | | | |

Karpov, Kamsky begin battle today

MOSCOW (R) — Veteran Anatoly Karpov and rising star Gata Kamsky, two grandmasters with roots in the once dominant Soviet chess school, start their battle for one of the rival World Chess Championships on Thursday.

Victory will be tainted by the fact that number one in the world ranking Garry Kasparov is not challenging because of his split with the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

The chess world has been in disarray ever since Kasparov broke away from FIDE in 1993 to set up the Professional Chess Association (PCA), taking with him some top players for a rival world championship.

As a result, the Karpov-Kamsky match is starting one year later than scheduled and without the media frenzy that went with title matches once cloaked in the terms of the cold war.

There will be little to match the drama of the 1978 battle between Karpov, backed by the propaganda and organisational machine of the Soviet Union, and Viktor Korchnik, who defected from the Soviet Union and was seen as an enemy of the state.

Kamsky, 22, who defected to the United States with his father and coach Rustam in 1988, and Russia's 45-year-old chess titan Karpov, who used to be the darling — and part of — the Soviet establishment, will play the best of 20 games.

They will do battle every second day and the winner needs to get 10.5 points, with one point for a victory and half for a draw. If they are level after 40 days and 20 games, the match will continue until one of them wins another game.

The initial venue, Montreal, was scrapped for lack of sponsors. Moscow also dropped out, largely because of a split in the Russian Chess Federation between supporters of Karpov and Kasparov.

In a stunning move, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the recently-elected and controversial head of FIDE, turned in Iraq, whose strongman ruler Saddam Hussein was prepared to put up the prize money.

But international criticism caused him to drop the plan and move the match to Elista, capital of the remote semi-autonomous Russian region of Kalmykia of which he is the president.

Kalmykia lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, just north of the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

The prize money — and some say it comes directly from the purse of millionaire Ilyumzhinov — is \$2 million.

The organising committee and press office are being run from the office of public relations firm Satellite Conseil, thousands of kilometres (miles) away, on a barge on the river Seine in a Paris suburb.

For many observers, the favourite is Karpov with his vast experience of winning 137 tournaments and nine matches for the world crown — more than anyone in the history of the game.

But others say the age difference and Kamsky's complete devotion — he is said to have no friends apart from his father and no interests apart from chess — may give him an edge.

Karpov is active in political life and is portrayed by his foes as a hardliner opposed to liberal reforms.

The match is a prelude to Ilyumzhinov's desperate attempts to put FIDE's troubles behind it and lure Kasparov and his friends back into the fold.

The world title awarded in Elista will be short-lived as FIDE plans a renewed world championship in December, possibly in Moscow and possibly with the participation of PCA players.

Dutch squad packs 900 pairs of shorts

ROTTERDAM (R) — The Dutch soccer squad, who travel to England Thursday for the European Championship, will spend most of Wednesday packing.

According to an article in Dutch daily Algemeen Dagblad Wednesday, the squad will take a total of 900 pairs of shorts, 580 shirts, 550 pairs of socks, 140 athletic supports, 100 pairs of bootlaces and 100 tracksuits.

The three goalkeepers alone are taking 140 jerseys and 80 pairs of shorts.

The Netherlands, champions in 1988, kick off against Scotland in Birmingham Monday.



A Seoul department store displays on June 5 a soccer ball, which it claims is the world's largest, after the world soccer body FIFA announced that South Korea and Japan would co-host the 2002 World Cup. The ball is made of leather and weighs 62 kilograms and measures 9.7 meters around. (Reuters photo)

Confident Sonics ready for NBA finals

CHICAGO (AFP) — Forgive the Seattle Supersonics if they remain unconvinced that Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls are unstoppable in their quest for the National Basketball Association title.

Even before they ousted Utah to win the Western Conference crown, Seattle heard critics say how neither club could challenge Chicago.

The Bulls have Jordan, the eight-time scoring champion and season Most Valuable Player. They have Dennis Rodman, the five-time rebound king. They have versatile Scottie Pippen and a solid supporting cast.

So what do the Sonics have? Confidence in themselves.

"If we came out and think Michael and those guys are God, we have got problems," forward Shawn Kemp said.

"If we play with them in a physical way, but not a dirty way, we have as good a chance as any team."

Seattle split two regular-season meetings with Chicago, winning 97-93 at Seattle in November before being routed 113-87 in Chicago last January.

"We can beat them. They haven't proved anything against us," Seattle coach George Karl said. "I think Chicago will allow us to run."

Gary Payton, the NBA defensive player of the year, sparks an aggressive defensive unit that could frustrate Jordan and Pippen and force the other Bulls to beat them.

"If we get a couple of wins, we can break their spirit," Payton said.

Among those who will rotate the duty of guarding Jordan is Hersey Hawkins, who would like nothing

more than spoiling Chicago's fairy-tale run following the winningest season NBA history at 72-10.

"They have said it themselves: if they don't win it, their whole season means nothing," Hawkins said. "They seem to be putting a little pressure on themselves."

Seattle guard Nate McMillan is doubtful with a nerve injury in his back, although Karl said he would be ready for games here Wednesday and Friday. McMillan and Askew would relieve Hawkins in guarding Jordan in crucial situations.

Another key matchup will be the potentially fiery showdown underneath the basket between Rodman and Kemp. Flamboyant Rodman is known for trying to annoy opponents to get them off their game.

Police ready for trouble as Europe prepares for Euro 96 kickoff

LONDON (R) — England is determined Euro 96 will be a joyous feast of soccer for 1.5 million fans but police are on full alert in case gangs of hooligans try to wreck it.

The tournament is the second most important in soccer and the English know they have to produce a near-perfect spectacle to stand any realistic hope of hitting the ultimate jackpot — the right to host the World Cup in 2006.

England was given Euro 96 as a reward for the huge steps it took to rid the domestic games of its hooligan ills after the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster and the authorities are determined there should be no unpleasant setbacks.

Police have made a number of high-profile arrests across the country over the last two weeks, focusing on thugs with a history of causing mayhem.

"We know from intelligence that all these people are hell-bent on going to Euro 96. We will not tolerate this type of behaviour at soccer matches," police inspector Dave Crompton said after the latest batch of arrests in London Tuesday.

Despite an embarrassing scandal over ticket allocations and a storm of tabloid headlines predicting mass bloodshed on the terraces, police and organisers are confident the tournament will pass off without major outbreaks of violence.

At peak times the forces of law and order will be able to call on up to 25,000 officers during the 31-match tournament, which the Ger-

mans are 4-1 favourites to win.

The police are equipped with an unprecedented array of new technology, including a special E-mail system as well as photophone, which enables high-quality photographs of offenders to be sent from one stadium to another in 30 seconds.

The fight against hooliganism at the eight tournament venues will be run from a special control centre in London, which has a database of 6,000 British hooligans.

One important weapon will be the army of spotters, police liaison officers attached to all English soccer clubs with special responsibility for monitoring hooligans.

On match days they will trail groups of known thugs, letting them know from the start that they have been spotted. Spotters from the Netherlands and Germany, whose fans have a reputation for violence, will also take part.

The massive operation, which police say will cost many millions of pounds, is intended to ensure a total of 6.9 billion television viewers in 194 countries can enjoy the action on the pitch rather than be shocked by fan mayhem off it.

The money from television rights and sponsorship alone will bring in around 70 million pounds (\$109 million), further proof of the massive sums generated by the modern game.

British commercial television stations plan to charge a minimum of 50,000 pounds (\$77,570) for each

30-second advertisement during big games and do not expect any shortage of takers.

Official Euro 96 merchandise, ranging from the official mascot Gnaliath in desk clocks and computer mats, is selling well and could raise up to 120 million pounds (\$186.2 million).

This will dwarf the 50 million pounds (\$77.57 million) generated by ticket sales, which in the past was traditionally the main way of raising money.

In all, the tournament is expected to produce profits of between 50 and 60 million pounds (\$77.57 and \$93.08 million) for European soccer body UEFA, which will share the money out between its 50 members.

A further 50 million pounds (\$77.57 million) will be distributed among the 16 finalists, with the winner picking up around 5.5 million pounds (\$8.53 million). First-round losers will leave for home with heavy hearts but wallets filled to the tune of 1.8 million pounds (\$2.79 million).

The official bookmakers Ladbrokes predict punters will shell out 80 million pounds (\$124.1 million) in bets during Euro 96, a British record amount for any sporting tournament.

Another winner will be the pulp and forestry industry.

The pieces of paper used to brief the 6,000 members of the media would stretch for 256 miles (412 km) if lined up end to end.

Mariners beat Indians in ninth; Phillies rout Cubs as Reds beat Giants

CLEVELAND (R) — The Indians had won their last 113 games when leading after eight innings and Jose Mesa had come through on his last 28 straight save opportunities, but both streaks came to a screeching halt Tuesday.

Edgar Martinez and Jay Buhner drew bases-loaded walks and Joey Cora added a run-scoring single as the Seattle Mariners scored four runs in the top of the ninth for a 10-7 victory over the Indians.

In Boston, Chad Krueter's two-run single snapped a tie and capped a four-run sixth inning rally and Wilson Alvarez allowed three runs in 7 1/3 innings as the red-hot Chicago White Sox beat the Red Sox 6-4.

In New York, Bernie Williams drove home Wade Boggs with a two-run RBI single that snapped a

fifth-inning tie and lifted the Yankees a 5-4 win over the Toronto Blue Jays for their fourth straight victory.

In Baltimore, Chris Hoiles hit a three-run homer in a six-run first inning and Bobby Bonilla drove in three runs as the Orioles held on for a 10-7 win over the Detroit Tigers.

In Oakland, Jason Giambi and Mark McGwire hit back-to-back homers in the sixth inning and Jose Herrera keyed a six-run fifth with a three-run shot to lead the Athletics to an 8-3 win over the Kansas City Royals.

At Minnesota, Rich Becker had three hits and drove in a pair of runs and Paul Miltner added a two-run homer to lift the Twins to a 5-3 victory over the California Angels for their first four-game winning streak of the season.

In Milwaukee, Ricky Bones allowed two runs over 7 1/3 innings and Dave Nilsson keyed a five-run first inning with a two-run double as the Brewers beat the Texas Rangers 6-2.

In the National League Pete Incaviglia hit a pair of three-run homers for the second time in a week and Gregg Jefferies returned weeks earlier than expected from an injury and had four hits and two RBI to power the Phillies in a 12-3 rout of the Chicago Cubs Tuesday.

At Florida, Gary Sheffield homered and drove in four runs and John Burkett threw seven shutout innings as the Florida Marlins blanked the Montreal Expos 5-0.

In Cincinnati, Barry Larkin homered and drove in three runs to lead the Reds to a 4-1 win over

the San Francisco Giants.

In Atlanta, Todd Hundley drove in five runs to pace a 16-hit New York assault as the Mets erupted for a 12-6 drubbing of the Braves.

In Houston, John Cangelosi and Sean Berry hit three-run homers in a six-run fourth inning and Derek Bell drove in three runs as the Astros hammered the Colorado Rockies 16-8.

In Los Angeles, Danny Darwin scattered five hits over eight-plus shutout innings and Jeff King, Charlie Hayes and Mike Kingery drove in runs in a three-run fourth inning as the Pittsburgh Pirates blanked the Dodgers 3-0.

Darwin (3-6) did not walk a batter and struck out two, leaving after Roger Cedeno led off the ninth with a single.

"He pitched a great ballgame," said Dodgers first baseman Eric

Karros, who had two of his team's five hits. Dodgers starter Hideo Nomo (6-5) took the loss, allowing three runs and six hits with seven strikeouts in six innings.

In San Diego, Gary Gaetti's solo home run in the seventh inning snapped a tie and the St. Louis Cardinals pulled away for an 11-5 victory over the Padres to extend their winning streak to six games.

Gaetti hit his fifth homer off reliever Tim Lincecum (4-1) to give the Cards a 5-4 edge and they added two runs on a bases-loaded single by pinch-hitter Mark Sweeney.

San Diego's Steve Finley led off the bottom of the seventh with his ninth home run to cut the deficit to 7-5, but the Cardinals answered with four runs in the eighth. Reliever Mark Petkovsek (4-0) got the win.

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| TODAY AT | <p style="text-align: center;">PHILADELPHIA</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">Before Sunrise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">PLAZA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Farouq Feeshawi & Aidah Riad</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">7th SIN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arabic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CONCORD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">CONCORD "1"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clint Eastwood & Meryl Streep in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*The Bridges of Madison County</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">CONCORD "2"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Pelican Brief</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Amman Theatre & Cinema</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Will Shortly present Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in a play entitled</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">Five-Star Government</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Starring comedians:</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Mahmoud Saimeh</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">South & Asham's Theatre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENTS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">Arab Human Rights</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Starts Monday, May 13</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For reservation please call</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">625155 - 640155</p> |
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Stich ends French hopes, Rosset in semifinals

PARIS (AFP) — Michael Stich, the player who dethroned the king of clay-court tennis Thomas Muster in the previous round continued his glory run at this year's French Open when he crushed Frenchman Cedric Pioline 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in 2hrs 24mins to reach the semifinals of the men's singles.

The 15th seeded German now plays Switzerland's Olympic champion Marc Rosset for a place in next Sunday's final against either top-seed Pete Sampras or Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Rosset, who had never got past the second round in six previous visits, earlier clawed his way back from the brink of defeat to beat unseeded Bernd Karbacher of Germany 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-0 in a grueling encounter spread over exactly three-and-a-half hours.

Stich, who thumped down 23 aces against Muster and wearing a white baseball cap to shield his eyes from the fierce sunshine, slammed down another 16 unreturnable serves against the 26-year-old Frenchman.

It was a remarkable performance by Stich and a deserved reward for all the hard work and agony he has been through since badly injuring his left ankle in Vienna last October while playing Australian Todd Woodbridge.

Stich arrived in the

What they've been saying at the French Open

"I played really defensive which is not my style of game. If I'm on the tennis court I should not play that way. Right now I just want to forget this and move on to Wimbledon." — Monica Seles, after her quarter-final loss to Czech opponent Jana Novotna.

"I felt as soon as we started to play that I was going to win today." — Jana Novotna, after leading joint top seed Monica Seles to reach the semi-finals.

"It's tough to talk about. But certainly a lot of different thoughts were in my mind. Good ones and bad ones. But I fought hard and that's really what people around me can be really proud of. I fought." — Pete Sampras, whose coach and friend Tim Lickteig died last month of brain cancer, on what was going through his head after his intense five-set victory over Jim Courier to reach the semi-finals.

"He got me again. He's tough. He puts up a front that he's smiling but he still fires shots back. I don't pay much attention to him when he's looking tired because I know it doesn't make any difference. He still comes up with the shots." — Jim Courier, after losing to Pete Sampras for the 12th time in 18 matches.

"If they don't want to come and watch me play — bad luck. I'm just doing my job." — Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, asked if she thought it was fair that she had been asked off court by the crowd for adopting "moon-balling" tactics in her three-hour quarter-final marathon against unseeded Karina Haboudova of Slovakia.

"I was very confused. I really didn't know what to do." — Iva Majoli, after being run down by the Steffi Graf express 3-6, 1-6 in the quarter-finals.

French capital with few pretensions. He had played only four tournaments and ten matches since his Austrian mishap.

Referring to his ankle, Stich said: "The doctors did a really great job when they operated on it. Everything is perfect now."

In Wednesday's match Pioline shone briefly in the second-set but made too

many errors to unsettle the 1991 Wimbledon champion — the world's number-two player back in 1993.

Despite Stich's excellent serving, Pioline had a dozen break points but converted only two. Pioline dropped serve five times.

The last Frenchman to reach the semi-finals here was Henri Leconte in 1992.

Holyfield-Tyson bout almost set

ATLANTA (R) — A long-anticipated bout between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson for the heavyweight title is all but set, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution said an official announcement is not expected until after Tyson, the World Boxing Council champion, fights World Boxing Association title holder Bruce Seldon on July 13.

But a basic agreement for a fight between the two heavyweights was discussed at a weekend meeting in Toronto between Tyson promoter Don King, Holyfield and Holyfield's attorney Jim Thomas, according to the newspaper.

"It looks very promising right now. There are still some fine details to work out. But it's basically coming to fruition," the newspaper quoted Holyfield spokesman Charles Watson as saying.

Holyfield, the former heavyweight champion, and Tyson were scheduled to go head to head in November 1991, but the fight was derailed by a Tyson rib injury. It was never rescheduled because of Tyson's rape conviction in February 1992.

French Open Martinez takes on Graf, Sanchez meets Novotna today

PARIS (AFP) — After Monica Seles' defeat by Jana Novotna in the quarter-finals, little would appear to stand between all-conquering Steffi Graf and her fifth French Open title.

But that's not the way the world number-one sees it.

From the start she has warned that Spain's Conchita Martinez is the player she fears most and Thursday the two come face to face on the centre-court.

The world's joint number one is chasing her 19th Grand Slam title and 99th in all.

The 26-year-old Graf, playing her tenth consecutive semi-final at Roland Garros, has won the last three Grand Slam events she has entered but missed the Australian Open because of a foot injury.

Her United States Open win last year made her the first woman ever to capture all four major titles at least four times and put her equal third with Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova on the women's all-time list of Grand Slam winners.

Twelve months ago Graf won the French crown despite being unable to prepare properly because of her chronic back injury — beating Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in a three-set final.

Martinez could be forgiven for feeling she has a mountain to climb as she attempts to reach her first French Open final after being a semi-finalist in 1994 and 1995.

"This time it will be different. This time I'm going all the way," she said, determined to put one over on Graf for only the second time in 14 meetings.

To date, the Spaniard has only one Grand Slam title — Wimbledon in 1994 — to show for her nine years on the circuit, and that one



Spain's Conchita Martinez

triumph remains her only final appearance.

But Martinez, who has spent most of her career in the shadow of compatriot Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, can upset opponents on red clay with her powerful topspin baseline game. And although her preparations for her 1996 Paris campaign suffered a setback when she went out in straight-sets to outsider Ludmila Richterova of Slovakia in the first round of the Spanish Open in Madrid, she has barely needed to break sweat to reach the semis here.

Like Graf, she has yet to lose a set. Martinez will also be encouraged by the fact that she gave Graf a hard time in the final at Indian Wells in March going down only after two hard-fought tie-breaks.

But be that as it may, if Graf can put to the back of her mind the turmoil surrounding her father and former financial advisor Peter

(in prison on tax evasion charges since last summer), she should come through.

Fourth-seeded Sanchez-Vicario, 24, who is bidding for a hat-trick of singles titles, will face Novotna in what could be an intriguing contrast of styles.

The Spaniard won here two years ago and back in 1989 when she became the youngest-ever winner at 17 years and six months — a record later beaten when Monica Seles took the crown in 1990 aged 16 years and 6 months.

Sanchez-Vicario, the 1994 U.S. Open winner, was booed off court when she reached her seventh French Open semi-final after a three-hour marathon against Karina Haboudova of Slovakia Tuesday when she started "moon-balling."

"I don't care what the public do. If they don't want to watch me play — then bad luck. I'm just doing my job," she said. Certainly the battling

Spaniard has not been having the best of seasons. She lost to rising American star Chanda Rubin in the quarter-finals at the Australian Open and then went out in the first round at Key Biscayne.

Although Sanchez-Vicario can never be underestimated on red clay — especially in a Grand Slam event — she will need to find her best form to oust Jana Novotna who has won eight of their 13 encounters.

Novotna, seeded 10, has continually suffered from her reputation as someone who lacks the mental strength at crucial moments in her matches. Twelve months ago she lost to Chanda Rubin in the third round despite leading 5-0, 40-0 in the final set.

But the 27-year-old Czech, who is coached by compatriot and 1981 French champion Hana Mandlikova, put all that behind her on Tuesday when she kept her nerve to see off Seles 7-6 (9/7), 6-3.

China warns cyclists against doping at Atlanta

BEIJING (R) — China has warned its cyclists against using performance-enhancing drugs and disgracing the country at the Atlanta Olympics after an unknown number of cyclists tested positive, a sports official said on Wednesday.

"In the past, some cyclists (were caught) using stimulants," a Chinese Cycling Association official said. She declined to give details.

The association has convened an anti-doping conference in Taiwan, capital of northern Shanxi province, where the 11-day national annual cycling championships started on Wednesday.

"We want to tell them not to test their luck," said the official, who asked not to be identified. "The meeting was to warn them not to disgrace China in the Olympics."

Eleven Chinese athletes tested positive at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima and were banned from competition. China is fighting an uphill battle against doping with 31 athletes testing positive in 1994 against 24 in 1993.

Sports officials have unveiled tough anti-doping measures, calling for guilty athletes to be banned from competition and stripped of their titles.

Athletes caught doping also face fines of up to five times their winnings and their coaches, doctors and managers could be jailed.

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JAPANESE HISTORICAL COSTUME EXHIBITION
Sunday June 9 - Tuesday June 11
16:00 to 20:00 every day
Royal Cultural Centre

JAPANESE DOLLS, LITHOGRAPH, CALLIGRAPHY & FLOWER ARRANGEMENT (IKEBANA) EXHIBITION
Sunday June 9 - Friday June 14
16:00 to 20:00 every day
Royal Cultural Centre

(all events will be free of charge except for the Kimono Fashion Show)

JAPANESE TV PROGRAMMES BROADCASTING

Saturday June 8 - Saturday June 15
Jordan Television (JTV)

JUDO DEMONSTRATION

Sunday June 9, 9:30 to 10:30
Al-Hussein Sports City, Prince Rasheed Centre

KIMONO FASHION SHOW

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN

Sunday June 9
15:00 to 16:00 (show)
20:00 to 22:00 (show with dinner)
Hotel Intercontinental Jordan

PUPPET & MAGIC SHOW FOR CHILDREN

Wednesday June 12, 16:00 to 17:30
Royal Cultural Centre, Studio Theatre

JAPANESE MOVIE SHOW

ALL FILMS SUBTITLED IN ARABIC

Thursday June 13 - Monday June 17
Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre

NINAGAWA DRAMATIC COMPANY

PRESENTS "MEDEA"

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Jerash South Theatre

JAPANESE TRADITIONAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Friday June 28 and Saturday June 29
19:30 to 21:00
University of Jordan, El-Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium



日本週間
JAPAN WEEK IN JORDAN

War crimes panel insists on arrests of Bosnian suspects

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The U.N. tribunal probing war crimes in ex-Yugoslavia on Wednesday urged the international community to "keep its back straight" and press ahead with attempts to oust Serb leaders accused of war crimes.

In a statement, the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia said that its president Antonio Cassese was increasingly concerned over the failure of repeated attempts to remove the indicted from power and hand them over to the tribunal.

Although the statement did not identify the leaders by name, it referred to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his army chief Ratko Mladic, who have defied international efforts to have them removed from power and handed over to the tribunal.

Their continued presence on the political scene is threatening to scupper Bosnia-wide elections to be held by mid-September.

Press reports have said Western officials agreed to an arrangement whereby Mr. Karadzic and general Mladic would renounce formal duties and stay out of public view in exchange for not being arrested. But the United States and other key players in the peace process have denied this.

NATO, concerned about a

possible backlash from the Serbs if Mr. Karadzic is arrested, says its peacekeeping force in Bosnia will not hunt him or Gen. Mladic down actively, but rather detain them only if NATO forces come across the suspects in the course of routine duties.

However, tribunal spokesman Christian Chartier said that Mr. Cassese would attend a Bosnia review conference to be held in Florence next week and "will urge the international community to keep its back straight" and assist the tribunal in fulfilling its mandate.

"Establishing it (the tribunal) and, at the same time, preventing it from fulfilling its mandate amounts to the issuance of a license to kill for future tyrants," the statement from Mr. Chartier said.

It said strong international action was needed to honour the memory of the war victims.

"It is a moral imperative not to have them buried twice," it said.

Mr. Chartier added that in Florence, Mr. Cassese would urge the international community to safeguard the integrity of the Dayton peace accord negotiated six months ago and "not to disconnect peace and justice (or) bargain on any of the terms."

NATO has stepped up patrol in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, the deputy

head of peacekeeping troops in Bosnia said, increasing the chances of arresting war crimes suspects.

General Jean Heinrich told journalists: "We will increase our presence in Pale and in the area surrounding Pale," bastion of Mr. Karadzic.

However, he ruled out the creation of new control posts around Pale, saying it would undermine freedom of movement enshrined in the Dayton peace accords which ended Bosnia's almost four-year war.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the weekend that NATO forces would conduct more dynamic, high-profile patrols to increase the chances of nabbing war crimes suspects.

Mr. Heinrich stressed, however, that "our mandate" concerning the arrest of suspects "has not changed." Asked why the NATO-led peace implementation force (IFOR) had taken the move, he said cryptically: "Perhaps to prepare the future."

IFOR has steadfastly refused to hunt down war crimes suspects, empowering its forces only to carry out arrests if they meet them in the course of their normal duties.

He accepted that seeing Mr. Karadzic in his car would qualify as establishing contact, and make the Serb leader liable to arrest.



MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT: His Majesty King Hussein (centre), Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (left) and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat pose for a picture Wednesday. The three leaders will discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process (Reuters photo)

Supreme court dismisses challenge to Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The supreme court on Wednesday validated Benjamin Netanyahu's election victory and decided there were no grounds to repeat the May 29 election for prime minister.

The five-judge panel rejected motions to include blank ballots in the final count. Had the petition been approved, it would have meant Mr. Netanyahu did not win the required minimum 50 per cent of the vote.

The decision came just hours before the central election commission was to announce the final, official results.

According to unofficial results released last Friday, Mr. Netanyahu won only by 29,457 votes.

More than 148,000 votes were declared invalid, among them thousands of blank ballots cast by those who apparently supported neither Mr. Netanyahu nor Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"Tens of thousands of blank ballots were cast by people who did not support either candidate and wished to register a protest," said one of the petitioners, Shmuel Saadia. "To ignore their vote is not only illegal, but also undemocratic."

It was not clear whether the petitioners, three groups of lawyers, were affiliated with any political group.

A senior official in Mr. Peres' Labour Party told the Associated Press he was approached by some of the lawyers on election night, when it became clear that Mr. Peres had lost. The Labour official said he rejected the petitioners' prop-

osal to challenge the results.

The petitioners argued that before the election, the central election commission adopted a regulation saying blank slips are invalid. However, the commission's protocol did not say whether the regulation was adopted by a two-thirds majority, as required by law. Therefore the petitioners claimed it was illegal, and the blank slips should be included in the total number of valid votes.

The supreme court on Wednesday rejected the argument, saying that the elections law clearly stated that a blank ballot was a spoiled ballot.

Had those ballots been counted as having been legally cast, with those cast for Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Peres, neither candidate would have won more than half of the total votes and a second round of voting would have been necessary.

Mr. Netanyahu beat Mr. Peres by a slim 29,457 votes in the election last Wednesday, winning 50.4 per cent of the 2,972,589 ballots deemed valid.

Commenting on the court case, Petitioner Shay Markus told Reuters: "The prime minister was not elected by a majority of the legal votes in the election. There is no section in the elections law which states that a blank ballot is not kosher."

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair and Mr. Netanyahu rejected the argument. Mr. Ben-Yair filed a motion asking the court to throw out the petitions, saying the elections committee had made clear in advertisements before the poll that blank ballots would not be counted.

Oil deal to ease suffering but is not enough — Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations will ease suffering in the health sector but will fall short of meeting all needs, a senior Iraqi health official said on Wednesday.

Shawki Sabri Marcus, Iraq's health undersecretary, told Reuters that billions of dollars would be needed to revamp his country's health infrastructure, devastated by nearly six years of U.N. trade sanctions.

"For sure it (the deal) will alleviate suffering but still a huge figure is needed to meet actual needs and demands for medical care and supplies," Mr. Marcus said.

Mr. Marcus, an epidemiologist, said prior to sanctions Iraq's imports of drugs and medical equipment amounted to \$500 million annually. "If you are to rebuild again the whole infrastructure you will need \$3 billion," he said.

"There is a sharp shortage of medical care for the innocent Iraqi citizens — children, mothers and the elderly," he said.

Under its agreement last month with the United Nations, Iraq is allowed to export limited amounts of oil worth \$2 billion over six months. The money can be used for urgent food and medical supplies as well as to meet other humanitarian needs.

Mr. Marcus did not say how much money Iraq would allocate for medicine. He said food imports would take the lion's share of the money from selling the oil.

"The main bulk of the money will go for food. You cannot divide the amount

evenly between food and medicine because food you should provide for everybody," Mr. Marcus said.

"In our field we will import vital drugs, life saving drugs, and after that if we still have some money in our pocket then we will ask for equipment," Mr. Marcus said.

He said some money should also be earmarked for water purification, sewage and electricity.

Of the \$2 billion, Iraq will have at its disposal less than \$1.2 billion because it must earmark 30 per cent for the 1991 Gulf war victims and pay for U.N. costs in the country.

Mr. Marcus, who was member of Iraq's delegation to the New York oil-for-food talks, said his ministry was awaiting a team of international health experts to appraise its plan on dispensing newly-bought medicines.

"We hope the team will arrive in the coming days. The plan is ready from our side," he said.

He blamed U.N. trade sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait for causing at least 500,000 deaths, most of them children under the age of five.

Mr. Marcus said the U.N. and non-governmental organisations "helped here and there but if you compare their help to the whole demand it is only a drop in the ocean. But still I say thanks for their efforts."

Mr. Marcus said hundreds of foreign pharmaceutical firms had approached his ministry about entering the Iraqi market.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey to examine sovereignty of Aegean islet

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey said Wednesday in plans to look into the status of an islet in the Aegean Sea over which Greece claims sovereignty in what could become a new territorial dispute between the two neighbours. "We neither accept nor contest Greek sovereignty" over Gavdos, an islet south of Crete, said foreign affairs spokesman Omer Akbel. "At this stage we want to examine" the status of the isle," he said, adding that it was a technical rather than political issue. However, on Tuesday, Athens accused Ankara of being "an international troublemaker" over the issue of Gavdos's sovereignty. Mr. Akbel said the dispute was sparked when Greece demanded the inclusion of the islet in allied exercises due to be held in the region in September. Tensions between Greece and Turkey mounted last month over the sovereignty of a group of uninhabited rocky islets in the Aegean Sea known as Kardak by Turkey and Imia by Greece, prompting the cancellation of a meeting between the two foreign ministers.

Iranian seamen jump ship in Australia

PERTH (AFP) — Two Iranian seamen have jumped ship in the port of Albany in the south of western Australia, in a bid to be allowed to remain in the country, an immigration official said Wednesday. The men were being detained in Albany before being taken to Perth to have their cases assessed. Australian immigration department official Peter Watt told AFP. "The pair reported to the police station in Albany," Mr. Watt said. "One went there Tuesday night and the other Wednesday morning... They just walked into the police station seeking help, and saying they wanted to remain in this country," he said. Mr. Watt declined to name the men or give any further clues about their identity, except to confirm they were from the Iranian-owned and operated bulk carrier, Iran Modares, which had sailed from Dubai. The vessel is in Albany waiting to load western Australian grain, he said. Police said the men appeared to be aged about 30. The Australian Broadcasting Commission reported one of the men was believed to be a stowaway, but Australian officials declined to comment.

Iranian opposition leader meets Arafat

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A leader of Iran's main exiled group voiced support for the Arab-Israeli peace process during talks in London with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, the opposition said Wednesday. Mujahideen-e-Khalq Secretary General Marjani met Mr. Arafat on Tuesday to express "support for the peace process and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," the National Resistance Council said. Iraq is home to the Mujahideen, Iran's main armed opposition which is headed by Mrs. Rajavi's husband Massoud. The National Resistance Council, which includes the Mujahideen and allies, elected Marjani provisional president of Iran. Mr. Arafat has accused Tehran of financing Palestinian militant groups which carry out anti-Israeli attacks aimed at destroying the peace process.

Sudanese refugees fight, nine dead

NAIROBI (AFP) — Nine people were killed and 137 others wounded during fighting between two groups of Sudanese refugees in a camp in northwestern Kenya, a spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday. The clashes, which occurred on Monday and Tuesday in the Kakuma camp, are said to have pitted refugees from the Dinka Tribe, who are loyal to southern Sudan rebel leader John Garang, against those who support his rival Riek Machar. Mr. Machar's loyalists are mainly from the Nuer tribe. Kenyan riot police used tear-gas to quell the fighting which erupted on Monday. The refugees were armed with spears and clubs. Refugee sources here said the fighting could have been triggered by differences arising from a recent decision by Mr. Machar's faction, the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) to sign a peace accord with Khartoum's military regime.

Aideed 'government' enlarged to 93 ministers

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed has enlarged his "government" to six vice presidents and 93 ministers. General Aideed, who controls part of south Mogadishu, territory to the south of the divided capital, and the town of Bajdoo, to the northwest, set up his "government of Somalia" in June in last year. He announced two new vice presidents Tuesday: "Hilowle Imam Omar, a close relative of north Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohammad, Gen. Aideed's bitter rival; and Abdurrahman Nuh Moalhim, a member of the Mareehaan clan of late dictator Mohammed Siad Barre, who was ousted in 1991. The 10 new "ministers" come from the United Somali Congress of north Mogadishu and the Somali National Front.

Ankara surprised by Egyptian criticism of Israel deal

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish government expressed surprise Wednesday at Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's blunt warning that Cairo would respond if Syria was threatened by a recent military accord between Israel and Turkey.

"We do not understand the reasons for such statements by the Egyptian authorities," Foreign Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel told reporters.

Egypt's ambassador to Ankara was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday to explain his president's comments, the spokesman said.

"We gave detailed explanations to Mr. Amr Musa (Egypt's foreign minister) when he was in Ankara" for an official visit in early May, Mr. Akbel said.

"He then said he was satisfied with these explanations and thanked the Turkish authorities," he added.

"Turkey wants peace, stability and cooperation. It is opposed to the formation of any blocs in the region," Mr. Akbel said.

Mr. Mubarak's comments came during a joint press conference with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Cairo on Monday. "We are waiting for more information (on this accord) to be able to evaluate it but we will oppose and will react against any accord which could constitute an axis aimed at whatever Arab country, including Syria," Mr. Mubarak said.

He said Turkish officials had not given Mr. Musa sufficient information on the objectives of the accord when he visited in May.

The agreement, which provides for training of Israeli air force pilots at Turkish bases, was sharply criticised by Arab countries, especially Syria and Iraq, as well as Iran — another neighbour of Turkey.

The Israeli army's assistant chief-of-staff, General Matan Vilnai, arrived for an official visit to Ankara on Monday. The secretary general of the

Turkish chief-of-staff, General Erol Ozkarak, said Tuesday the accord envisaged "no hostile attitude against third countries."

Hizbollah cannot liberate S. Lebanon — Sfeir

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbollah guerrillas are incapable of driving Israeli occupation troops from South Lebanon but could be a bargaining card in peace talks, Lebanon's Christian religious leader said.

Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir said in an interview in Wednesday's Al Safir newspaper that continued Hizbollah attacks would eventually undermine the state's authority.

"The resistance is useful. Of course it will remain useful but it alone is incapable of doing it

(liberating the occupied zone). For how long has it been working now... since 1982? Hit me and I bit you back, but what next?" Mr. Sfeir said.

"Presumably it is a fundamental and supportive element and a pressuring force which could be a weapon in the hands of the state that opens the door to negotiations and pave the way for a peaceful settlement."

Peace talks between Lebanon and Israel have been stalled for four years over the question of an Israeli troop withdrawal from a 15-kilometre wide

zone it occupies in South Lebanon.

About 200 Lebanese civilians were killed in a 17-day bombardment last month of Lebanon by Israeli forces who said they were trying to crush the pro-Iranian Hizbollah. Guerrilla rocket attacks wounded about 50 Israelis before a ceasefire was arranged.

Mr. Sfeir criticised Arab countries for not taking part in the fight against Israel. Syria, a main foreign power broker in Lebanon, has 35,000 troops stationed in the country, but they have

stayed away from any direct confrontation with Israel.

"Why does Lebanon's frontline have to be on fire, while others are quiet?" he asked.

"Mr. Sfeir said the Hizbollah fighting in South Lebanon was Islamic and influenced by foreign powers, and therefore was not a national force representing all Lebanese."

"It's true the fighters are Lebanese, but there is a non-Lebanese influence... the resistance has to be a national one not only Islamic," he said.

Ciller party decides to back vote against Yilmaz

ANKARA (Agencies) — One of the parties in the ruling coalition decided Wednesday to support a no-confidence vote, virtually dooming Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's government.

If the government falls after Saturday's vote, it could open the way for a pro-Islamic party to come to power.

Deputies of the centre-right True Path Party decided to vote against their own government after attacks by Yilmaz supporters on their leader, former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

Mr. Yilmaz, whose personal rivalry with Ms. Ciller has brought their coalition to the brink of collapse, has signalled a softening towards his rival, sending messages of peace during a visit to Brussels this week.

The Islamic Welfare Party has sought to capitalise on the rivalry. Welfare, which advocates Islamic rule in this secular Muslim nation, led parliamentary elections last December but was blocked from power by Mr. Yilmaz and Ms. Ciller.

Welfare increased its share of the vote in local elections last Sunday in some 40 cities and towns, while the centre-right parties of the coalition both lost ground.

The Islamists are hoping that True Path, rocked by internal strife and attacks from coalition partner Motherland, will agree to form a coalition with them after breaking the current one.

Ms. Ciller's aides have insisted they still oppose such an alliance. Instead, True Path wants to renegotiate a

new coalition deal with Motherland, they have said.

Turkey's parliament on Wednesday also voted to probe the source of Ms. Ciller's substantial personal assets, the third of graft investigations against her.

"The inquiry motion has been accepted," Deputy Speaker Kamer Genc told parliament after the vote on the Welfare-backed motion.

A group of mostly women supporters of Ms. Ciller scuffled with police inside parliament on Wednesday after being barred from hearing the former premier address her True Path Party, witnesses said.

The women, some chanting Ms. Ciller's name, exchanged punches and slaps with police as they were ejected from a closed-door

meeting of the party's MPs. Female party members have been among the staunchest defenders of Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first woman leader, against the corruption charges.

The protesters were later allowed to listen to a short speech by Ms. Ciller before voluntarily leaving the chamber. "Our unity will last forever. I thank (the women) for their spirit," Ms. Ciller said.

The meeting, to discuss the stance the party will take on the censure motion this weekend against Mr. Yilmaz, continued behind closed doors.

U.S.-educated economics professor Ms. Ciller handed over the premiership to Mr. Yilmaz in March under a coalition deal with his Motherland Party.

COLUMN

Man dials wrong numbers for phone sex

BEIJING (AFP) — An elderly Chinese security guard has been sentenced to life imprisonment for making 180 calls to a sex phone-line abroad, the Guangming Daily reported Wednesday. Qi Mingqin, 61, a temporary security guard for the Wuji Traffic Police in Hebei province, spent 510,000 yuan (\$61,000) calling the sex line 180 times between April 8 and May 10 last year. He discovered the service, located in an unidentified foreign country, from an overseas radio broadcast, the newspaper said. Sex chat lines are illegal in China. The Chinese judicial system also metes out tougher punishment when the crime exceeds a certain financial threshold. China has launched a tough crackdown on crime, code-named "strike hard."

Woman charged with punching airline crew

BOSTON (R) — A Danish woman who allegedly struck three American Airlines crew members during a trans-Atlantic flight was ordered by a federal judge Tuesday to undergo a psychiatric exam. The pilot of American Airlines Flight 111, en route from Frankfurt, Germany to Miami Monday, diverted the plane to Boston where police arrested Wiwica Theila Larsen for interfering with a flight crew. Special agent Ronald Yearwood of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a court affidavit that after drinking from a duty-free bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey, Ms. Larsen began walking up and down the aisle, singing, screaming and yelling. When she was caught smoking a cigarette in the aircraft's lavatory and allegedly hit three crew members, the pilot handcuffed her and seated her alone in the last row of the plane, Mr. Yearwood said. "I've been camping out all over Europe," Ms. Larsen, dressed in a black sweat-suit, told a U.S. magistrate in Boston Tuesday. "I smoke 16 cigarettes a day and haven't had one since yesterday. I want a cigarette." Magistrate Robert Collings said Ms. Larsen may be suffering from a mental illness and ordered her to undergo a psychiatric examination. Another hearing was set for Thursday. Ms. Larsen's exact age was not given but she was born in 1949.

Child pornography curbs delayed

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Proposed measures to curb child pornography in Sweden will be delayed beyond a major world conference on the sexual exploitation of children because MPs are divided on how to combat the problem. A parliamentary commission studying possible changes to the constitution to make child pornography illegal said Tuesday it had put off publication of its report until the end of the year. The report was to have been submitted to parliament on June 30, ahead of the Aug. 27-31 conference in Stockholm organised by the Swedish government, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) Association. "It is important to know that we are going to criminalise trade in child pornography, even if it will perhaps not be forbidden to possess it," said commission member Roger Wennström. Swedish children's protection organisations reacted anxiously to the delay, fearing that there would be no agreement on the necessary changes to the constitution.